



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 571

January Session, 2001

Substitute House Bill No. 6547

House of Representatives, May 2, 2001

The Committee on Planning and Development reported through REP. DAVIS of the 50th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING AUTOMATIC FIRE SPRINKLERS IN NEW HOMES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 (NEW) The State Fire Marshal shall study the need for automatic
- 2 fire extinguishing systems in new one or two family homes. Upon
- 3 determination that there is a need, the State Fire Marshal shall adopt
- 4 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the
- 5 general statutes, requiring installation of automatic fire extinguishing
- 6 systems in new one or two family homes.

PD *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: One-Time Cost in FY 02 and Potential Minimal Cost and Very Minimal Revenue Gain, beginning in FY 03

Affected Agencies: Department of Public Safety (Office of State Fire Marshal)

Municipal Impact: Potential Minimal Revenue Gain/Increase in Grand List, beginning in FY 03

Explanation

State Impact:

The bill results in a one-time cost to the state Department of Public Safety (DPS) Office of State Fire Marshal of \$25,000 to \$50,000 in FY 02 and in potential minimal cost and very minimal revenue gain to the state, beginning in FY 03. The bill requires the State Fire Marshal to study the need for automatic fire extinguishing systems in new one or two family homes. If need is determined, then the State Fire Marshal must adopt regulations requiring their installation in such new homes.

The one-time cost of \$25,000 to \$50,000 in FY 02 is for DPS to hire a consultant to assist in the study. If necessary, DPW would incur minimal, absorbable costs in FY 03 for adopting regulations. In addition, a very minimal revenue gain would result to the Building Permit Education Fund in the state's General Fund. This is financed

by an assessment on the building permits for all new construction, which will be \$0.17 per \$1,000 of construction in FY 02.

It is estimated that automatic fire extinguishing systems cost from \$1.50 to \$3.00 per square foot. This is from \$3,000 to \$6,000, for a typical 2,000 square foot new house. Based on (1) the assessment of \$0.17 per \$1,000 on construction and (2) the assumption that there will be 1,000 new houses built per year, the revenue gain to the fund would be \$510 to \$1,020 per year.

Municipal Impact:

The bill results in potential minimal revenue gain or an increase in the grand list to municipalities by increasing the value of new homes with automatic fire extinguishing systems. Assuming that (1) the cost of the system is reflected in the value of the house, (2) the assessment is 70% of the value, and (3) a tax rate of 30 mills, each house would increase property tax revenues from \$63 to \$126 per year. It would increase the Grand List by \$2,100 to \$4,200 per house.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6547

AN ACT CONCERNING AUTOMATIC FIRE SPRINKLERS IN NEW HOMES.

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the state fire marshal to study the need for automatic fire sprinklers in new one- or two-family homes. If the need exists, he must adopt regulations requiring their installation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2001

Legislative History

On April 17, the House referred the bill (File 162) to the Planning and Development Committee, which reported this substitute. The original bill allowed towns to adopt ordinances for installing fire sprinklers in new one- or two- family homes.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety Committee

Joint Favorable Report
Yea 12 Nay 10

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 10 Nay 4