

Dear Legislators, please note:

1. The language proposed has changed the intent of the existing language in the wrong direction! The current phraseology is “not later than...” NOT “not less than...”
2. The proposed change from 18 months to 6 years is not likely to encourage rapid adoption of more modern codes. The national code writing organizations update every 3 years. I would suggest that you consider a 3 year minimum update period, subject to review by the State Codes and Standards Committee and the Office of State Building Inspector, as per the full language of 29-252.
3. The reference in 29-252 of the code publication upon which updates are to be based is to the nationally recognized model building code, NOT the latest date of adoption of the State Building Code as stated in the proposed legislation.
4. Next you have to examine the regulatory review process to see how it can be streamlined. This has been a major impediment to a more rapid adoption of updated codes.
5. Also, please review all existing legislation that is prescriptive, not simply enabling, that must be incorporated into every CT State Code update when adopting national standards and codes, since the statutory language is more specific. These pieces of legislation should be sunsetted! A study was mandated by the Legislature years ago to determine which regulations conflicted with the Building and Fire Safety Codes. (See Note 1 below) The study was done and it has sat dormant. I believe that the Office of State Building Inspector has the information on file, although it sorely needs updating since many of the referenced statutes have been changed since then.
6. The Office of State Building Inspector and the State Codes and Standards Committee are excellent resources for the Legislature and should be consulted on matters such as this proposed legislation.

General  
Assembly

*January Session,  
2013*

***Proposed Bill No.  
5749***

LCO No. 1481

Referred to Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY AND  
SECURITY

Introduced by:

REP. CAFERO, 142nd Dist.

REP. CANDELORA, 86th Dist.

REP. KLARIDES, 114th Dist.

***AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE STATE BUILDING CODE.***

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

That subsection (a) of section 29-252 of the general statutes be amended to require the State Building Inspector and the Codes and Standards Committee to revise the State Building Code not [less] **later** than [~~six~~] **three** years, rather than eighteen months, following the date of first publication of the immediately preceding revision to the [~~State Building Code~~] **nationally recognized model building code**.

***Statement of Purpose:***

To allow the state and municipalities to save resources by providing for a more consistent State Building Code that still maintains national building standards.

**Note 1:** Some of the reason that we need to amend the national codes is that we have conflicting regulations. Perhaps it's time for the Commissioner of Construction Services to be assigned to follow up on the information gleaned due to 29-251a, update it, and present it to the Legislature.

**Sec. 29-251a. Review of regulations. Report.** As used in this section, "program requirements" means any program or part of a program which is required by law. The Commissioner of Public Safety, in consultation with the Codes and Standards Committee, shall conduct a review of existing regulations of each state agency to determine whether any provision of such regulations conflicts with the State Building Code, the State Fire Safety Code, the State Fire Prevention Code or any other fire safety regulation adopted under this chapter. The commissioner shall make recommendations to the department head of any state agency which has regulations that are in conflict with the State Building Code, the State Fire Safety Code, the State Fire Prevention Code or any other fire safety regulation adopted under this chapter for the amendment of such regulations so they no longer are in conflict with said codes or any such fire safety regulations. Not later than ninety days following receipt of such recommendations, the department head of such state agency shall initiate the process under chapter 54 to amend or repeal such regulation in order to bring such regulation into compliance with the State Building Code, the State Fire Safety Code, the State Fire Prevention Code or any other fire safety regulation adopted under this chapter as the case may be, unless the amendment or repeal of such regulation would result in a conflict with the applicable agency's program requirements. The Commissioner of Public Safety, in consultation with the Codes and Standards Committee, shall report such recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety.

(P.A. 97-308, S. 1; P.A. 09-177, S. 1.)

History: P.A. 09-177 added references to "the State Fire Prevention Code or any other fire safety regulation adopted under this chapter" and made conforming changes.

Thanks for your attention to this important issue.

Bruce

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