
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6572

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ENERGY USE BUILDING STANDARDS FOR VOLUNTARY ADOPTION.

SUMMARY

This bill allows municipalities to establish a requirement that new or substantially renovated buildings over 40,000 square feet demonstrate that they use at least 10% per square foot less energy than maximum levels permitted under the state building code (i.e., a “stretch code”). Under the bill, municipalities choosing to establish this requirement must inform the State Building Inspector and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner about it.

The bill allows municipalities to authorize the municipal building official to accept a report from a licensed professional engineer to verify compliance with the requirement. It allows building owners to appeal a municipal building official’s decision to the municipal appeals board. (By law, aggrieved parties may appeal the board’s decisions to the state Codes and Standards Committee and the committee’s decisions to Superior Court (CGS § 29-266).)

Under the bill, if the State Building Inspector and the Codes and Standards Committee determine in writing that a nationally accepted green building rating system meets or exceeds the municipal energy use requirement, all buildings constructed in accordance with that rating system satisfy the municipal requirement. Under the bill, a green building rating system is one that is included in the State Building Code for certain large buildings.

Beginning January 1, 2024, the bill allows the Department of Administrative Services commissioner, in consultation with the DEEP commissioner, to adopt regulations limiting municipal energy use

requirements to a maximum percentage that is cost effective over a 30-year period, up to 10%.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

COMMITTEE ACTION

Energy and Technology Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 16 Nay 10 (03/18/2021)