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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **sHB 6600**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING SMOKE DETECTION AND WARNING EQUIPMENT IN ALL RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill expands the smoke detector requirement to require them in single-family homes for which the building permit for new occupancy was issued (hereinafter "built") before October 1, 1978. It does so by requiring the State Fire Marshal and the Codes and Standards Committee to amend the Fire Safety Code to include a requirement for smoke detectors in all single-family homes. Current law already requires the code to require them in new single-family homes built after October 1, 1978.

The bill also eliminates the requirement for new single-family homes built on or after October 1, 1985, to have smoke detector equipment capable of operating using alternating current and batteries.

By law, anyone who violates any provision of the Fire Safety Code is fined between \$200 and \$1,000, imprisoned up to six months, or both (CGS § 29-295).

Existing law requires the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) commissioner, with advice and help from the Home Inspection Licensing Board, to adopt regulations on home inspectors. In these regulations, the bill requires the commissioner to establish a minimum and uniform standard for an inspector inspecting a home. This standard must require the inspector to report on the presence of smoke detection and warning equipment, including noting (1) the equipment's location and total number and (2) if he or she was able to test it and verify that it was less than 10 years old.

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes regarding the

Fire Safety Code.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage for the smoke detector provision and October 1, 2021, for the DCP regulations.

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***Fire Safety Code***

The Fire Safety Code is based on a nationally recognized model fire code and is revised as needed to incorporate advances in technologies and improvements in construction materials. The law requires code revisions to occur within 18 months after the first publication of the revisions to the model fire code.

Instead of being adopted under the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act as a regulation, the code is adopted through a similar process, but does not require the attorney general's review for legal sufficiency. The law allows the Regulation Review Committee to waive its review and if the committee fails to meet or act on a proposed code in a certain timeframe, the code is deemed approved.

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 19 Nay 5 (03/24/2021)