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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **sHB 6639**

#### ***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM REGARDING BUILDING OFFICIALS AND RESOURCES RELATED TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE STATE BUILDING CODE.***

#### **SUMMARY**

The bill requires the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) commissioner to (1) establish a pilot program by January 1, 2022, related to municipalities' administration of the State Building Code (i.e., the code) and (2) select between two and five municipalities in each of the state's planning regions (see BACKGROUND) to participate in the program based on certain criteria. A municipality participating in the pilot program must enter into one or more interlocal agreements with other participating municipalities in its planning region. Lastly, the bill establishes program reporting requirements for participating municipalities and DAS.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2021

#### **APPLICATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

The bill requires the commissioner to establish criteria for selecting program participants, including a municipality's: (1) staffing, information technology, and other resources; and (2) potential to expand its procedures or services related to administering the code to other participating municipalities in the same planning region. Under the bill, municipalities must apply to the pilot program in the manner the DAS commissioner prescribes.

#### **INTERLOCAL AGREEMENTS**

The bill requires a municipality participating in the pilot program to enter into one or more interlocal agreements with other participating municipalities in its planning region within 60 days after the date the DAS commissioner selects the pilot program participants. Under the

agreement, participating municipalities:

1. share resources and best practices related to administering the code,
2. identify efficiencies and related potential cost savings, and
3. generally further the pilot program's purposes.

The bill prohibits interlocal agreements from exceeding the pilot program's duration.

### **PROGRAM COMPONENTS AND STANDARDS**

Under the bill, the purposes of the pilot program are for participating municipalities to:

1. standardize procedures, forms, and other materials related to municipal building officials' administration of the code;
2. scan or otherwise digitize related records into searchable electronic records located in a public online database; and
3. share building officials' services and staff with other municipalities in the same planning region.

The bill requires the DAS commissioner to, notwithstanding an interlocal agreement, specify the minimum standards for (1) digitizing building code-related records and developing a searchable database, as described above and (2) making information technology resources interoperable among participating municipalities in an interlocal agreement.

### **REPORTING**

The bill requires participating municipalities to begin submitting an annual report to the DAS commissioner and OPM secretary by January 1, 2023. This report must include (1) measures the participating municipality took under the program during the most recent calendar year, either alone or with other participating municipalities as part of an interlocal agreement, and (2) additional measures planned for the

current calendar year.

The bill also requires the DAS commissioner, in consultation with the OPM secretary, to annually report starting by February 1, 2023, to the Public Safety and Security and Planning and Development committees on (1) the pilot program's status and (2) any related legislative recommendations.

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***Planning Regions***

By law, the OPM secretary designates the state's planning regions, of which there are nine. The planning regions have the same boundaries as the regional councils of governments.

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 25    Nay 1    (03/31/2021)