



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 318

January Session, 2023

Substitute House Bill No. 6848

House of Representatives, March 29, 2023

The Committee on Energy and Technology reported through REP. STEINBERG of the 136th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING GAS LEAK DETECTORS IN NEW AND EXISTING CONSTRUCTION.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) The State Building
2 Inspector and the Codes and Standards Committee shall make
3 amendments to the State Building Code to require that all new buildings
4 constructed after the effective date of such amendments that use
5 combustible gas be equipped with a gas detector.

6 (b) The State Fire Marshal shall make amendments to the Fire Safety
7 Code to require that (1) all new buildings constructed after the effective
8 date of such amendments that use combustible gas be equipped with a
9 gas detector, and (2) not later than two years after the effective date of
10 such amendments, all buildings that use combustible gas be equipped
11 with a gas detector.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
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ET *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Department of Administrative Services	GF - Cost	Potential	Potential

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Various Municipalities	STATE MANDATE ¹ - Cost	Potential	Potential

Explanation

The bill may result in a potential cost to the state and municipalities to ensure all state and local buildings that contain combustible gas be equipped with a gas leak detector by July 1, 2025. There will be a cost to the state and municipalities in FY 24 and FY 25 to the extent they must install new gas detectors in buildings.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

¹ State mandate is defined in Sec. 2-32b(2) of the Connecticut General Statutes, "state mandate" means any state initiated constitutional, statutory or executive action that requires a local government to establish, expand or modify its activities in such a way as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6848*****AN ACT CONCERNING GAS LEAK DETECTORS IN NEW AND EXISTING CONSTRUCTION.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires the State Building Inspector and the Codes and Standards Committee to amend the State Building Code to require that all buildings be equipped with a gas detector if they (1) use combustible gas and (2) are constructed after the amendment's effective date.

It correspondingly requires the State Fire Marshall to amend the Fire Safety Code to implement this same requirement and extends the requirement to all buildings that use combustible gas within two years after the amendment takes effect.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

BACKGROUND***State Building Code***

By law, the State Building Code is the building code for all towns, cities, boroughs, and state buildings. The law requires the state building inspector and the Codes and Standards Committee, with the approval of the Department of Administrative Services commissioner, to adopt and administer a state building code based on a nationally recognized model building code to regulate the design, construction, and use of buildings or structures. The law requires code revisions to occur within 18 months after the first publication of revisions to the model building code (CGS § 29-252 et seq.).

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 revisions to the model fire code (CGS § 29-292).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Energy and Technology Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/14/2023)