

Residential Fire Sprinkler Legislation Background and Talking Points

Senate Bill 129 & House Bill 202

Sponsored by: Senator Linda Menard (SB129)

Sponsored by: Representative Bob Herron (HB202)

“An Act relating to municipal building code requirements for fire sprinkler systems in certain residential buildings.”

Issues with this legislation:

1. Original legislation restricted local governments from mandating residential fire sprinklers for “any reason”.
 - a. Local governments (thru the Alaska Municipal League) complained that this would take away “local control” by restricting them from adopting mandatory residential fire sprinkler code requirements.
 - b. ASHBA amended the legislation to allow local governments to retain “local control” over the implementation of a residential fire sprinkler code requirement.
2. Current legislation only effects a local government if it decides to adopt a building code that MANDATES residential fire sprinkler systems in the construction of ALL NEW 1 and 2 family dwellings.
3. Local governments still retain the ability to require residential fire sprinklers in 1 and 2 family dwellings on a case by case basis.
4. Under SB129/HB202, if a local government chooses to attempt to require residential fire sprinkler systems in ALL NEW 1 and 2 family dwellings, the following steps must be taken by the local government:
 - Prepare a cost-benefit analysis of the new residential fire sprinkler requirement
 - Publish the cost-benefit analysis and hearing schedule for a minimum of three public meetings on the issue
 - The first public meeting could be held no sooner than 30 days from the publication of the schedule.
 - Hold three public hearings on the new residential fire sprinkler requirement
 - The three public hearings must be held in a 60 day period
 - Final action on the adoption of the fire sprinkler ordinance could not be taken until the conclusion of the third public meeting.