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ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE SENATE

SENATOR RICHARD I. ELIASON

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE  
LABOR & COMMERCE COMMITTEE  
RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
RULES COMMITTEE  
CHAIRMAN, SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON  
DOMESTIC & INTERNATIONAL  
COMMERCIAL FISHERIES




P.O. BOX 111  
SITKA, ALASKA 99835

P.O. BOX V  
JUNEAU ALASKA 99801  
(907) 465-4000

FAX (907) 465-4920

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Senator Drue Pearce, Chair  
Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

FROM: Senator Dick Eliason 

DATE: April 17, 1991

RE: SB 247 - Relating to the plumbing, mechanical, and boiler standards of the state

I respectfully request a hearing in the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee to take testimony on Senate Bill 247, "Relating to the plumbing, mechanical, and boiler standards of the state."

This legislation adopts the 1991 Editions' of the Uniform Plumbing Code and the Uniform Mechanical Code as the plumbing and mechanical standards of the state. In addition, SB 247 upgrades the boiler code to allow automatic utility hot water heaters to be used for combined potable water and space heating. The safety specifications established by the Department of Labor that must be met are outlined in this legislation.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this request.

**FISCAL NOTE**

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**1991 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

**BILL NO :** SSSB 247

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title: "An Act relating to the plumbing  
 and boiler standards of the state."  
 Sponsor: Senator Ellason  
 Requestor: Senate Labor & Commerce

Department Affected: Labor  
 BRU: Labor Standards & Safety  
 Component: Mechanical Inspection  
 COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 346

**EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)**

| OPERATING              | FY 92      | FY 93      | FY 94      | FY 95      | FY 96      | FY 97      |
|------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| PERSONAL SERVICES      |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| TRAVEL                 |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| CONTRACTUAL            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| SUPPLIES               |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| EQUIPMENT              |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| LAND&STRUCTURES        |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| GRANTS,CLAIMS          |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| MISCELLANEOUS          |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| <b>TOTAL OPERATING</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> |
| <b>CAPITAL</b>         |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| <b>REVENUE</b>         |            |            |            |            |            |            |

**FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)**

|               |            |            |            |            |            |            |
|---------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| GENERAL FUND  |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| FEDERAL FUNDS |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| OTHER         |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> |

**POSITIONS:**

|           |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| FULL-TIME |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| PART-TIME |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| TEMPORARY |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Estimate of current year impact: None

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Bob Libbey, Director Phone: 264-2452  
 Division: Labor Standards & Safety Date: 4/30/91  
 Approved by Commissioner: Nancy Bear Usara  
 Agency: Department of Labor Date: 4/30/91

Distribution (by preparer): Legislative Finance, Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB, & Impacted Agency(ies).



217 Second Street, Suite 200 • Juneau, Alaska 99801 • Tel (907) 586-1325, Fax (907) 463-5480

April 30, 1991

## Position Paper

### SB 247 - Updating the Plumbing Code

The Alaska Municipal League supports SB 247 which would adopt the 1991 edition of the Uniform Plumbing Code as the minimum plumbing code for the State of Alaska, and that allows a municipality to adopt and enforce codes that are at least as strict as the code.

Quoting from the AML's 1991 Policy Statement:

"The League supports the adoption of the national plumbing codes as the standards for Alaska." (page 47)

By adopting the the 1991 edition of the Uniform Plumbing Code as the minimum plumbing code, the state can eliminate the conflicts that now exist among state and local building code officials, expedite municipal capital projects and private construction projects, and reduce construction costs.

Attached is City and Borough of Juneau Resolution No. 1505 on the same subject.

Attachment

sab6:pos.plumb

Presented by: The Manager  
Introduced: 04/15/91  
Drafted by: B.J.B.

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 1505

A RESOLUTION URGING THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO ADOPT SENATE BILL NO. 247 WHICH WOULD ADOPT THE 1991 EDITION OF THE UNIFORM PLUMBING CODE AS THE MINIMUM PLUMBING CODE FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA.

WHEREAS, the 1979 Edition of the Uniform Plumbing Code is now the minimum plumbing code for the State of Alaska, and

WHEREAS, many municipalities in Alaska have adopted more recent editions of the Uniform Plumbing Code, and

WHEREAS, conflicts now exist among state and local building code officials due to state enforcement of the 1979 Uniform Plumbing Code, particularly with regard to the use of plastic pipe, and

WHEREAS, this conflict has affected municipal capital improvement projects as well as private construction projects, and

WHEREAS, the widespread and safe use of plastic piping materials in Alaska will lower both public and private sector construction costs and increase the resistance of plumbing systems to corrosion and freeze-thaw damage, and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League and many Alaskan professional associations, including the fire chiefs, firefighters, building officials, homebuilders, and architects have indicated support for the adoption by the state of the most recent Uniform Plumbing Code, and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill No. 247 would adopt the 1991 Edition of the Uniform Plumbing Code as the minimum plumbing code for the State of Alaska, and

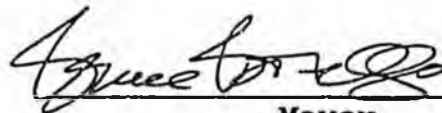
WHEREAS, the City and Borough of Juneau Low Income Housing Task Force reviewed this issue and recommended that the Assembly adopt a resolution urging the Alaska Legislature to adopt the 1991 Uniform Plumbing Code, including the provisions on plastic pipe;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

1. That the Assembly urges the Alaska Legislature to adopt Senate Bill No. 247 which would adopt the 1991 Edition of the Uniform Plumbing Code, including the provisions relating to plastic pipe, as the minimum plumbing code for the State of Alaska.


2. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

Adopted this 15th day of April, 1991.



Mayor

Attest:



Clerk



United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the  
Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry

PLUMBERS & STEAMFITTERS LOCAL UNION NO. 367

610 W. 54TH AVENUE • ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99518

DARRELL SMITH, BUSINESS MANAGER

PHONE (907) 562-2810



April 23, 1991

Dick Eliason, Senator  
State of Alaska  
P.O. Box "V"  
Juneau, Alaska. 99811

Re: Senate Bill #247. An Act relating to the Plumbing,  
Mechanical and Boiler Standards of the  
State of Alaska.

Dear Senator Eliason:

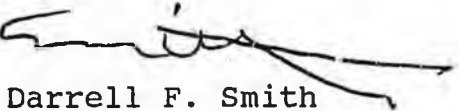
The purpose of this letter is to support the quick passage of  
SB #247. This Local Union has been critical of previous  
Nationally established Plumbing Codes and their adoption in  
Alaska. We have received and reviewed the "NEW" Code standards  
and feel they are in the best interests of the State and should  
be adopted.

We also have received the "NEW" Boiler Code upgrade's and feel  
this will also bring the State of Alaska into line with the new  
technology of heating systems already in use in other States.

Again, I would encourage your support of this Bill.

If I may be of further assistance on this matter, please  
advise.

Respectfully,



Darrell F. Smith  
Business Manager  
U.A. Local 367

# International Conference of Building Officials

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Alaska Southeast Chapter

POSITION PAPER IN SUPPORT OF SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR  
SENATE BILL 247 "AN ACT RELATING TO THE PLUMBING  
AND BOILER STANDARDS OF THE STATE."

Our membership supports the adoption of construction safety codes in a timely manner. The 1991 version of the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) adopted by this Act will clearly serve the best interests of Alaskan residents.

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT  
FIRST COMMITTEE OF REFERRAL

DATE: 4/8/91  
4/29/91 --SSSB 247

FURTHER:

Date of 5-Day Notice: 4-25-91  
(in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE: \_\_\_\_\_

L&C Committee considered SSSB 247

Plumbing and boiler standards of the state; efd.

and recommended:

- replace with \_\_\_\_\_ CS \_\_\_\_\_  same title
- attached amendment(s)  new title
- \_\_\_\_\_ letter of intent adopted
- do pass
- do not pass
- no recommendation
- individual recommendations
- further referral to \_\_\_\_\_

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department(s)/Date:

Department(s)/Date:

fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

zero fiscal note(s) LABOR / 4-30-91  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

appropriation-no fiscal note

Governor's bill w/fiscal note

SIGNING DO PASS:

[Signature]  
[Signature]  
[Signature]

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

[Signature]  
Chair: Signature and Recommendation

MAY 6 1991



May 3, 1991

Affiliated with NAHB

The Honorable Drue Pearce  
The Senate  
Alaska State Legislature  
P O Box V (MS 3100)  
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Pearce:

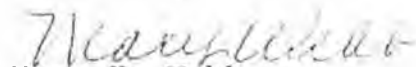
I am writing on behalf of the Building Industry Association of Anchorage concerning Senate Bill No. 247, a bill for an act entitled "An Act relating to the plumbing, mechanical, and boiler standards of the state." I would encourage your consideration of waiting to pass this bill out of committee until the proposed standards are available for and have gone through a review process.

The homebuilders in our Association are quite active in the Municipality of Anchorage's code review process. They are very cognizant of the process and the debate any code changes undergo to be adopted. They are also aware that changes are usually not sweeping nor necessarily impractical, so the idea of adopting the 1991 edition of the Uniform Plumbing Code, the 1991 edition of the Uniform Swimming Pool, Spa, and Hot Tub Code, and the 1991 edition of the Uniform Solar Energy Code is not inherently one we oppose.

It has, however, always been the practice to adopt any code or revision to a code only after that code has been read and reviewed by committees of individuals affected by given regulations. This gives interested parties an opportunity to clarify what is meant by any changes and to ascertain whether or not adaptations to local conditions will need to be made. This process makes any code more workable and often more in line with the intent of the regulation.

While the above-mentioned codes have all been adopted by the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials, copies of the codes to read and to review are not yet available, not even for the code officials who will need to enforce them. The Municipality of Anchorage is even now putting together the committees which will review these and several other codes in their entirety and in depth. This review process will be complete by the end of the summer. We urge you to wait on passing SB 247 until this can be accomplished and informed opinions about the codes involved may be made available to you.

Very truly,

  
Mary K. Webb  
Executive Officer



**Building Industry Association of Anchorage, Inc.**  
7801 Schoon, Unit E • Anchorage, Alaska 99518 • (907) 522-3605