

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS20551

Currently, §54-2601 adopts the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) as the standard to which all plumbing installations administered and enforced by the Division of Building Safety and cities must be installed. The UPC has been the legislative code of choice since 1975. This statute also allows cities to adopt a plumbing enforcement program as long as a city ordinance prescribes the equal minimum standards. In recent years, there has developed some question as to the applicability of more than one plumbing code in city jurisdictions. This has made it more expensive as well as more difficult for plumbers to conform to the code and operate with consistency. The Idaho Plumbing Board, in collaboration with the plumbing industry and representatives from city jurisdictions, would establish the 2009 Idaho State Plumbing Code (ISPC) instead of adopting the 2009 UPC as the uniform legal standard applicable to all plumbing installations throughout all jurisdictions in the state. However, cities would still retain authority to administer a program and to amend the code to meet local needs through an amendment process similar to that used to adopt building codes. The new ISPC is not a deviation from nationally recognized plumbing standards. It is overwhelmingly modeled after the UPC; however, selected provisions have been customized to address concerns unique to the plumbing industry and regulation thereof in Idaho in an attempt to build a uniform code by consensus.

FISCAL NOTE

The fiscal impact to the Division should initially be slightly negative due to the purchase of new code books for its inspectors. In the longer term, the fiscal impact is expected to be positive. Only minimal training will be required to familiarize DBS inspectors with the ISPC and will be accomplished within the Division itself. It is also anticipated that the traditional 3-5 year cycle for the adoption of new code editions will be extended to 5-7 years. Board amendments to the code will be incorporated into it at no charge, and the publisher has also agreed to make the entire code available to the public (including the Division and cities) electronically at no charge and directly accessible via the DBS website. No new plumbing code has been adopted since the 2003 UPC, and whether the ISPC or UPC is adopted some expenses are necessarily involved in that process; however, the Board has not identified any increased expenses as a result of establishing the ISPC. The fiscal impact on cities who administer a program as well as the plumbing industry is anticipated to be substantially similar to that of the Division as described above, and not expected to require significant additional training or education. The enforcement of one statewide code (ISPC) would eliminate the need to purchase multiple code books. Finally, the inclusion of plumbing statutes and IDAPA rules into the code book itself should also save the industry time and expertise.

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