

JAN 18 2019

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Act 53, Session Laws
2 of Hawaii 2017, extended, until 2027, the existing law that
3 prohibits the counties from adopting any codes or regulations
4 that require the installation of residential fire sprinklers in
5 one- and two-family dwellings, except to meet firefighting road
6 access or water supply requirements. Currently, all United
7 States model building codes include residential fire sprinkler
8 requirements, because of their reliability and effectiveness in
9 suppressing a fire in its initial stages.

10 The legislature also finds that codes or regulations
11 considered and adopted at a local level will improve and enhance
12 the fire survivability of community residents by eighty per cent
13 and reduce fire losses. Further, residential fire sprinklers
14 greatly reduce the spread of fire, thereby significantly
15 lessening property damage and loss. As such, the current
16 prohibition is not in the best interest of public health and
17 safety.



S.B. NO. 630

1 The legislature further finds that the intensity, severity,
2 and spread of fire in residential buildings is directly related
3 to the contents and furnishings. Although improvements have
4 been made in building construction, design, and materials, the
5 volatility and toxicity of today's synthetic materials allows
6 untenable conditions to be reached more rapidly. The
7 legislature also finds that the respective county jurisdictions
8 face unique challenges and issues relating to fire protection,
9 including population density, proximity of structures,
10 infrastructure, access, and limited fire protection resources.

11 The ability for counties to exercise home rule authority
12 regarding requirements for fire sprinklers is recognized,
13 acknowledged, and supported by the National Fire Protection
14 Association (NFPA). The NFPA's Fire Sprinkler Initiative notes
15 that California, Maryland, and the District of Columbia have
16 statewide or regional requirements for residential fire
17 sprinklers in new one- and two-family dwellings. Nineteen
18 states have no statewide requirements, but allow local
19 jurisdictions to require residential fire sprinklers.

20 Finally, the legislature notes that the state building code
21 council, which was created in 2007, is responsible for reviewing



1 and adopting the latest editions of national model building
2 codes for the State and is the forum for discussion by building
3 code experts from the various fields of building design,
4 construction, safety, and health.

5 The purpose of this Act is to amend Act 53 and remove the
6 existing restriction that prohibits counties from requiring the
7 installation of residential fire sprinklers.

8 SECTION 2. Act 83, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, as amended
9 by Act 53, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, is amended by amending
10 section 3 to read as follows:

11 "SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2012;
12 provided that on [~~June 30, 2027,~~] July 1, 2019, this Act shall
13 be repealed."

14 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
15 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

16 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on June 30, 2019.

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INTRODUCED BY: Clarence W. Smith, B/R



S.B. NO. 630

Report Title:

Fire Sprinklers; Building Code; Public Safety

Description:

Amends Act 53, SLH 2012, and removes the restriction that prohibits counties from requiring the installation of residential fire sprinklers.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

