

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 481 Session of 2011

INTRODUCED BY BAKER, ALLOWAY, ARGALL, BRUBAKER, FOLMER, FONTANA,
GORDNER, PILEGGI, RAFFERTY AND ROBBINS, FEBRUARY 10, 2011

REFERRED TO LABOR AND INDUSTRY, FEBRUARY 10, 2011

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of November 10, 1999 (P.L.491, No.45), entitled
2 "An act establishing a uniform construction code; imposing
3 powers and duties on municipalities and the Department of
4 Labor and Industry; providing for enforcement; imposing
5 penalties; and making repeals," adding provisions relating to
6 residential buildings with log walls.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Section 901 of the act of November 10, 1999
10 (P.L.491, No.45), known as the Pennsylvania Construction Code
11 Act, is amended by adding a subsection to read:

12 Section 901. Exemptions.

13 * * *

14 (f) Log walls.--Log walls with a minimum average wall
15 thickness of five inches or greater which comply with the
16 International Code Council Standard on the Design and
17 Construction of Log Structures, ICC 400-2007, or other successor
18 standard which the department may specify by regulation, shall
19 be permitted in residential buildings if:

20 (1) the area weighted average U-factor for fenestration

1 products in the log walls is a maximum of 0.31; and

2 (2) (i) the building heating equipment meets or exceeds
3 the following Department of Energy ratings:

4 (A) Gas furnace - 90 annual fuel utilization
5 efficiency (AFUE).

6 (B) Oil furnace - 85 annual fuel utilization
7 efficiency (AFUE).

8 (C) Boilers - 85 annual fuel utilization
9 efficiency (AFUE).

10 (D) Air source heat pumps - 8.2 heating seasonal
11 performance factor (HSPF) split systems.

12 (E) For water-to-air geothermal heat pumps:

13 (I) Closed loop water-to-air, an energy
14 efficiency rating of 14.1 and coefficient of
15 performance of 3.3.

16 (II) Open loop water-to-air, an energy
17 efficiency rating of 16.2 and coefficient of
18 performance of 3.6.

19 (F) For water-to-water geothermal heat pumps:

20 (I) Closed loop water-to-water, an energy
21 efficiency rating of 15.1 and coefficient of
22 performance of 3.0.

23 (II) Open loop water-to-water, an energy
24 efficiency rating of 19.1 and coefficient of
25 performance of 3.4.

26 (G) For direct geothermal exchange, an energy
27 efficiency rating of 15.0 and coefficient of
28 performance of 3.5;

29 or

30 (ii) the building heating equipment is qualified

1 under the Energy Star program jointly operated by the
2 Department of Energy and the United States Environmental
3 Protection Agency as provided for in 10 CFR Pt. 430
4 (relating to energy conservation program for consumer
5 products); and

6 (iii) all energy efficiency requirements of this act
7 applicable to components other than log walls are met.

8 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.