

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. House Bill 1196

PRINTER'S NO. 4475

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General

DATE INTRODUCED

April 3, 2009

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative Boyd

HISTORY OF BILL

Referred to LABOR RELATIONS, April 3, 2009

Reported as committed, Oct. 9, 2009

First consideration, Oct. 9, 2009

Laid on the table, Oct. 9, 2009

Removed from table, Nov. 9, 2009

Re-committed to APPROPRIATIONS, Nov. 9, 2009

Re-reported as committed, Dec. 8, 2009

Second consideration, with amendments, Dec. 8, 2009

(Remarks see House Journal Page 2401-2406), Dec. 8, 2009

Third consideration and final passage, Dec. 15, 2009 (193-0)

In the Senate

Referred to LABOR AND INDUSTRY, Dec. 15, 2009

Reported as amended, April 13, 2010

First consideration, April 13, 2010

Laid on the table, May 26, 2010

Removed from table, Oct. 12, 2010

Second consideration, Oct. 12, 2010

Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, Oct. 12, 2010

Re-reported as amended, Oct. 13, 2010

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

House Bill 1196 amends the Pennsylvania Construction Code Act (Act 45 of 1999) to clarify the duties of the board of appeals, to exempt certain types of manufactured housing, and to specify energy efficiency criteria and International Code Council compliance that must be met to allow log walls of a minimum average thickness of five inches or greater.

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

FISCAL NOTE

Currently, the board of appeals is a body created by a municipality to hear appeals of code administrators which question and dispute a claim as to whether the Act has been correctly interpreted by the code administrator, if the provisions of the Act fully apply, if there is an equivalent form of construction to be used, or if decision has contravened the true intent of the Act. The bill maintains all of these provisions for an appeal except the latter regarding the true intent of the Act. The bill codifies the boards' duties to consider variances and requests for extensions of time which are already required by the current Uniform Construction Code (UCC) administrative regulations.

The bill's provisions specify an exemption for certain manufactured housing. The bill allows certain residential buildings to have log walls with a minimal average wall thickness of five inches or greater. These specified residential buildings must comply with the International Code Council standard on the design and construction of log structures, ICC 400-2007 or other successor standard specified by Departmental regulation. The residential buildings must also have a maximum area weighted average U-factor for fenestration products in the log walls of 3.1. The bill also requires the residential buildings to have heating equipment that meets or exceeds certain Department of Energy efficiency and performance ratings. The exemption of residential buildings with log walls meeting the criteria explained above from the provisions of the Act expires on December 31, 2012.

The bill further amends the Act by adding a subsection to delay the implementation of the installation of fire sprinklers in newly constructed one and two-family dwellings until December 15, 2011. It requires the builder to offer to install or equip the building or dwelling with an automatic fire sprinkler system, as well as provide the buyer with information which explains the initial and ongoing cost of installing and equipping an automatic fire sprinkler system in the building or dwelling unit.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The provisions related to the clarification of the duties of the board of appeals do not have any fiscal impact to the Commonwealth. The provisions related to the log walls in residential housing should benefit the log home builders by allowing them to use existing inventory if still meeting specified energy efficiency standards as set forth in the bill. The provisions related to the log walls will have no fiscal impact on the Commonwealth. The bill's provisions exempting the installation of automatic sprinkler system from the act will have no fiscal impact to the Commonwealth.