

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO.

House Bill 377

PRINTER'S NO.

1520

AMOUNT

\$9,000 in FY 2011-12

FUND

General

DATE INTRODUCED

January 31, 2011

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative Everett

HISTORY OF BILLReferred to LABOR AND INDUSTRY, Jan. 31, 2011Amended in House Committee on LABOR AND INDUSTRY, Feb. 28, 2011Reported as amended, March 1, 2011

First consideration, March 1, 2011

Laid on the table, March 1, 2011

Removed from table, March 1, 2011

Second consideration, March 2, 2011

Re-committed to APPROPRIATIONS, March 2, 2011

(Remarks see House Journal Page), March 2, 2011

Re-reported as committed, March 7, 2011Third consideration and final passage, March 7, 2011 (154-39)

(Remarks see House Journal Page), March 7, 2011

In the Senate

Referred to LABOR AND INDUSTRY, March 11, 2011Reported as amended, April 6, 2011

First consideration, April 6, 2011

Second consideration, April 11, 2011

Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, April 11, 2011Re-reported as amended, April 11, 2011

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

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DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

House Bill 377 amends the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code (UCC) to add provisions related to manufactured housing and log walls of residential structures. The bill also revises the process by which the latest triennial revisions of the UCC are reviewed and adopted by the UCC Review and Advisory Council (RAC). The bill removes the requirement for the installation of automatic fire sprinkler systems in residential structures but requires the use of increased floor standards in homes without sprinkler systems. The bill also removes the wall bracing requirements of the 2009 International Residential Code (IRC).

Language was added to the UCC to provide consistency with the Industrialized Housing Act, which governs manufactured housing in addition to the UCC.

The bill will allow log home construction to continue to meet the energy and construction standards provided for in the UCC. Walls must be at least five inches thick or greater, stringent window glazing and heating efficiency requirements must be met, and all other component requirements are maintained.

Requirements to install automatic fire sprinkler systems which were imposed under the 2009 International Code Council (ICC) are excluded from the UCC. Builders of one and two family dwellings, however, must offer a buyer the option to install an automatic fire sprinkler system. Builders must also provide buyers with information related to the costs and benefits of automatic sprinkler systems.

The bill requires builders to utilize increased fire resistant flooring standards in homes in which the permit holder elects not to install automatic sprinkler systems.

The bill excludes the wall bracing requirements of the 2009 International Residential Code (IRC), and reverts the UCC back to the wall bracing requirements of the 2006 IRC.

The provisions for the log walls will retroactively take effect on January 1, 2010.

The provisions for the removal of the automatic sprinkler systems in residential dwellings will retroactively take effect on January 1, 2011.

The remainder of the Act shall take effect immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The provisions related to manufactured housing, log walls in residential structures, automatic sprinkler systems, fire resistant flooring standards, and wall bracing requirements will have no fiscal impact on the Commonwealth.

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

The Department of Labor and Industry is required to provide administrative support to the RAC. The RAC is required to hold three public hearings each time it undertakes its triennial code review beginning with the 2012 ICC. The Governor's Budget Office estimates the total cost incurred for the three hearings would be about \$9,000 which would include possible equipment costs and space for the meetings not held in Harrisburg, as well as costs for a stenographer.