

## CHAPTER 2017-149

### Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1021

An act relating to construction; amending s. 377.705, F.S.; revising legislative findings and intent; authorizing solar energy systems manufactured or sold in the state to be certified by professional engineers; amending s. 489.103, F.S.; revising an exemption from construction contracting regulation for certain public utilities; deleting responsibility of the Construction Industry Licensing Board to define the term “incidental to their business” for certain purposes; amending s. 553.79, F.S.; prohibiting a political subdivision from adopting or enforcing certain building permits or other development order requirement; providing construction; providing for preemption of certain local laws and regulations; providing for retroactive applicability; providing an exception; amending s. 468.603, F.S.; revising definitions; amending s. 468.609, F.S.; revising eligibility requirements for the examination for certification as a building code inspector or plans examiner to include an internship certification program; removing an eligibility condition from provisions related to provisional certificates; requiring the Florida Building Code Administrators and Inspectors Board to establish rules; amending s. 468.617, F.S.; authorizing specified entities to contract for the provision of building code administrator and building official services; amending s. 553.791, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; revising a definition; requiring local jurisdictions to reduce certain permit fees; amending ss. 471.045 and 481.222, F.S.; conforming cross-references; amending s. 553.80, F.S.; prohibiting local enforcement agencies, independent districts, and special districts from charging certain fees; amending s. 553.73, F.S.; revising requirements for updating the Florida Building Code; providing that certain amendments to the Florida Building Code are not void under certain circumstances; providing that certain technical amendments are subject to review or modification; requiring the commission to adopt and update the Florida Building Code through certain review rather than by rule; revising requirements relating to the codes used to update the Florida Building Code; specifying minimum requirements for updates to the Florida Building Code; authorizing the commission to adopt as a technical amendment any portion of specified codes; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; prohibiting the Florida Building Commission from adopting certain code provisions or standards; amending s. 553.76, F.S.; authorizing the commission to adopt the Florida Building Code and amendments thereto by a specified number of votes; creating s. 553.9081, F.S.; requiring the Florida Building Commission to amend certain provisions of the Florida Building Code; amending s. 633.208, F.S.; prohibiting a county, municipality, special taxing district, public utility, or private utility from requiring a separate water connection or charging a specified water or sewage rate under certain conditions; prohibiting a local government from requiring a permit

for painting a residence; requiring the Department of Education to develop a plan for specified purposes; requiring Department of Education to provide the plan to the Construction Industry Workforce Task Force by a specified date; requiring CareerSource Florida, Inc., to develop a plan for specified purposes; requiring CareerSource Florida, Inc., to provide the plan to the Construction Industry Workforce Taskforce by a specified date; requiring the Florida Building Commission to amend specified provisions of the Florida Building Code related to door components; amending s. 489.516, F.S.; specifying that certain provisions do not prevent a certified electrical or alarm system contractor from acting as a prime contractor under certain circumstances; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 377.705, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

377.705 Solar Energy Center; development of solar energy standards.

(1) **SHORT TITLE.**—This act shall be known and may be cited as the Solar Energy Standards Act of 1976.

(2) **LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.**—

~~(a) Because of increases in the cost of conventional fuel, certain applications of solar energy are becoming competitive, particularly when life-cycle costs are considered. It is the intent of the Legislature in formulating a sound and balanced energy policy for the state to encourage the development of an alternative energy capability in the form of incident solar energy.~~

~~(b) Toward this purpose, The Legislature intends to provide incentives for the production and sale of, and to set standards for, solar energy systems. Such standards shall ensure that solar energy systems manufactured or sold within the state are effective and represent a high level of quality of materials, workmanship, and design.~~

(3) **DEFINITIONS.**—~~As used in this section, the term:~~

(a) “Center” means ~~is defined as~~ the Florida Solar Energy Center of the Board of Governors.

(b) “Solar energy systems” means ~~is defined as~~ equipment which provides for the collection and use of incident solar energy for water heating, space heating or cooling, or other applications which normally require or would require a conventional source of energy such as petroleum products, natural gas, or electricity and which performs primarily with solar energy. In such other systems in which solar energy is used in a supplemental way, only those components which collect and transfer solar energy shall be included in this definition.

(4) FLORIDA SOLAR ENERGY CENTER TO SET STANDARDS, REQUIRE DISCLOSURE, SET TESTING FEES.—

(a) The center shall develop and ~~adopt~~ promulgate standards for solar energy systems manufactured or sold in this state based on the best currently available information and shall consult with scientists, engineers, or persons in research centers who are engaged in the construction of, experimentation with, and research of solar energy systems to properly identify the most reliable designs and types of solar energy systems.

(b) The center shall establish criteria for testing performance of solar energy systems and shall maintain the necessary capability for testing or evaluating performance of solar energy systems. The center may accept results of tests on solar energy systems made by other organizations, companies, or persons ~~if when~~ such tests are conducted according to the criteria established by the center and ~~if when~~ the testing entity does not have a ~~has no~~ vested interest in the manufacture, distribution, or sale of solar energy systems.

(c) The center shall be entitled to receive a testing fee sufficient to cover the costs of such testing. All testing fees shall be transmitted by the center to the Chief Financial Officer to be deposited in the Solar Energy Center Testing Trust Fund, which is ~~hereby~~ created in the State Treasury, and disbursed for the payment of expenses incurred in testing solar energy systems.

(d) All solar energy systems manufactured or sold in the state must meet the standards established by the center and shall display accepted results of approved performance tests in a manner prescribed by the center, unless otherwise certified by an engineer licensed pursuant to ch. 471 using the standards contained in the most recent version of the Florida Building Code.

Section 2. Subsection (5) of section 489.103, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

489.103 Exemptions.—This part does not apply to:

(5) Public utilities, including municipal gas utilities and special gas districts as defined in chapter 189, telecommunications companies as defined in s. 364.02(13), and natural gas transmission companies as defined in s. 368.103(4), on construction, maintenance, and development work performed by their employees, ~~which work, including, but not limited to, work on bridges, roads, streets, highways, or railroads, is incidental to their business. The board shall define, by rule, the term “incidental to their business” for purposes of this subsection.~~

Section 3. Subsection (20) is added to section 553.79, Florida Statutes, to read:

553.79 Permits; applications; issuance; inspections.—

(20)(a) A political subdivision of this state may not adopt or enforce any ordinance or impose any building permit or other development order requirement that:

1. Contains any building, construction, or aesthetic requirement or condition that conflicts with or impairs corporate trademarks, service marks, trade dress, logos, color patterns, design scheme insignia, image standards, or other features of corporate branding identity on real property or improvements thereon used in activities conducted under chapter 526 or in carrying out business activities defined as a franchise by Federal Trade Commission regulations in 16 C.F.R. ss. 436.1, et. seq.; or

2. Imposes any requirement on the design, construction or location of signage advertising the retail price of gasoline in accordance with the requirements of ss. 526.111 and 526.121 which prevents the signage from being clearly visible and legible to drivers of approaching motor vehicles from a vantage point on any lane of traffic in either direction on a roadway abutting the gas station premises and meets height, width, and spacing standards for Series C, D, or E signs, as applicable, published in the latest edition of Standard Alphabets for Highway Signs published by the United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of Public Roads, Office of Highway Safety.

(b) This subsection does not affect any requirement for design and construction in the Florida Building Code.

(c) All such ordinances and requirements are hereby preempted and superseded by general law. This subsection shall apply retroactively.

(d) This subsection does not apply to property located in a designated historic district.

Section 4. Section 468.603, Florida Statutes, is reordered and amended to read:

468.603 Definitions.—As used in this part:

(2)(1) “Building code administrator” or “building official” means any of those employees of municipal or county governments, or any person contracted, with building construction regulation responsibilities who are charged with the responsibility for direct regulatory administration or supervision of plan review, enforcement, or inspection of building construction, erection, repair, addition, remodeling, demolition, or alteration projects that require permitting indicating compliance with building, plumbing, mechanical, electrical, gas, fire prevention, energy, accessibility, and other construction codes as required by state law or municipal or county ordinance. This term is synonymous with “building official” as used in the administrative chapter of the Standard Building Code and the South Florida Building Code. One person employed or contracted by each municipal or county government as a building code administrator or building official and

who is so certified under this part may be authorized to perform any plan review or inspection for which certification is required by this part, including performing any plan review or inspection as a currently designated standard certified building official under an interagency service agreement with a jurisdiction having a population of 50,000 or less.

~~(4)~~<sup>(2)</sup> “Building code inspector” means any of those employees of local governments or state agencies, or any person contracted, with building construction regulation responsibilities who themselves conduct inspections of building construction, erection, repair, addition, or alteration projects that require permitting indicating compliance with building, plumbing, mechanical, electrical, gas, fire prevention, energy, accessibility, and other construction codes as required by state law or municipal or county ordinance.

~~(1)~~<sup>(3)</sup> “Board” means the Florida Building Code Administrators and Inspectors Board.

~~(7)~~<sup>(4)</sup> “Department” means the Department of Business and Professional Regulation.

~~(6)~~<sup>(5)</sup> “Certificate” means a certificate of qualification issued by the department as provided in this part.

~~(5)~~<sup>(6)</sup> “Categories of building code inspectors” include the following:

(a) “Building inspector” means a person who is qualified to inspect and determine that buildings and structures are constructed in accordance with the provisions of the governing building codes and state accessibility laws.

(b) “Coastal construction inspector” means a person who is qualified to inspect and determine that buildings and structures are constructed to resist near-hurricane and hurricane velocity winds in accordance with the provisions of the governing building code.

(c) “Commercial electrical inspector” means a person who is qualified to inspect and determine the electrical safety of commercial buildings and structures by inspecting for compliance with the provisions of the National Electrical Code.

~~(h)~~<sup>(d)</sup> “Residential electrical inspector” means a person who is qualified to inspect and determine the electrical safety of one and two family dwellings and accessory structures by inspecting for compliance with the applicable provisions of the governing electrical code.

(e) “Mechanical inspector” means a person who is qualified to inspect and determine that the mechanical installations and systems for buildings and structures are in compliance with the provisions of the governing mechanical code.

~~(g)~~<sup>(f)</sup> “Plumbing inspector” means a person who is qualified to inspect and determine that the plumbing installations and systems for buildings

and structures are in compliance with the provisions of the governing plumbing code.

~~(f)(g)~~ “One and two family dwelling inspector” means a person who is qualified to inspect and determine that one and two family dwellings and accessory structures are constructed in accordance with the provisions of the governing building, plumbing, mechanical, accessibility, and electrical codes.

~~(d)(h)~~ “Electrical inspector” means a person who is qualified to inspect and determine the electrical safety of commercial and residential buildings and accessory structures by inspecting for compliance with the provisions of the National Electrical Code.

~~(8)(7)~~ “Plans examiner” means a person who is qualified to determine that plans submitted for purposes of obtaining building and other permits comply with the applicable building, plumbing, mechanical, electrical, gas, fire prevention, energy, accessibility, and other applicable construction codes. The term includes a residential plans examiner who is qualified to determine that plans submitted for purposes of obtaining building and other permits comply with the applicable residential building, plumbing, mechanical, electrical, gas, energy, accessibility, and other applicable construction codes. Categories of plans examiners include:

- (a) Building plans examiner.
- (b) Plumbing plans examiner.
- (c) Mechanical plans examiner.
- (d) Electrical plans examiner.

~~(3)(8)~~ “Building code enforcement official” or “enforcement official” means a licensed building code administrator, building code inspector, or plans examiner.

Section 5. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2), paragraphs (a) and (d) of subsection (7), and subsection (10) of section 468.609, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

468.609 Administration of this part; standards for certification; additional categories of certification.—

(2) A person may take the examination for certification as a building code inspector or plans examiner pursuant to this part if the person:

(c) Meets eligibility requirements according to one of the following criteria:

1. Demonstrates 5 years' combined experience in the field of construction or a related field, building code inspection, or plans review corresponding to the certification category sought;

2. Demonstrates a combination of postsecondary education in the field of construction or a related field and experience which totals 4 years, with at least 1 year of such total being experience in construction, building code inspection, or plans review;

3. Demonstrates a combination of technical education in the field of construction or a related field and experience which totals 4 years, with at least 1 year of such total being experience in construction, building code inspection, or plans review;

4. Currently holds a standard certificate issued by the board or a firesafety inspector license issued pursuant to chapter 633, has a minimum of 3 years' verifiable full-time experience in inspection or plan review, and has satisfactorily completed a building code inspector or plans examiner training program that provides at least 100 hours but not more than 200 hours of cross-training in the certification category sought. The board shall establish by rule criteria for the development and implementation of the training programs. The board shall accept all classroom training offered by an approved provider if the content substantially meets the intent of the classroom component of the training program;

5. Demonstrates a combination of the completion of an approved training program in the field of building code inspection or plan review and a minimum of 2 years' experience in the field of building code inspection, plan review, fire code inspections and fire plans review of new buildings as a firesafety inspector certified under s. 633.216, or construction. The approved training portion of this requirement shall include proof of satisfactory completion of a training program that provides at least 200 hours but not more than 300 hours of cross-training that is approved by the board in the chosen category of building code inspection or plan review in the certification category sought with at least 20 hours but not more than 30 hours of instruction in state laws, rules, and ethics relating to professional standards of practice, duties, and responsibilities of a certificateholder. The board shall coordinate with the Building Officials Association of Florida, Inc., to establish by rule the development and implementation of the training program. However, the board shall accept all classroom training offered by an approved provider if the content substantially meets the intent of the classroom component of the training program; or

6. Currently holds a standard certificate issued by the board or a firesafety inspector license issued pursuant to chapter 633 and:

a. Has at least 5 years' verifiable full-time experience as an inspector or plans examiner in a standard certification category currently held or has a minimum of 5 years' verifiable full-time experience as a firesafety inspector licensed pursuant to chapter 633.

b. Has satisfactorily completed a building code inspector or plans examiner classroom training course or program that provides at least 200 but not more than 300 hours in the certification category sought, except for one-family and two-family dwelling training programs, which must provide at least 500 but not more than 800 hours of training as prescribed by the board. The board shall establish by rule criteria for the development and implementation of classroom training courses and programs in each certification category; or

7.a. Has completed a 4-year internship certification program as a building code inspector or plans examiner while employed full-time by a municipality, county, or other governmental jurisdiction, under the direct supervision of a certified building official. Proof of graduation with a related vocational degree or college degree or of verifiable work experience may be exchanged for the internship experience requirement year-for-year, but may reduce the requirement to no less than 1 year.

b. Has passed an examination administered by the International Code Council in the certification category sought. Such examination must be passed before beginning the internship certification program.

c. Has passed the principles and practice examination before completing the internship certification program.

d. Has passed a board-approved 40-hour code training course in the certification category sought before completing the internship certification program.

e. Has obtained a favorable recommendation from the supervising building official after completion of the internship certification program.

(7)(a) The board shall provide for the issuance of provisional certificates valid for 1 year, as specified by board rule, to any ~~newly employed or promoted~~ building code inspector or plans examiner who meets the eligibility requirements described in subsection (2) and any newly employed or promoted building code administrator who meets the eligibility requirements described in subsection (3). The provisional license may be renewed by the board for just cause; however, a provisional license is not valid for longer than 3 years.

(d) A ~~newly employed or hired~~ person may perform the duties of a plans examiner or building code inspector for 120 days if a provisional certificate application has been submitted if such person is under the direct supervision of a certified building code administrator who holds a standard certification and who has found such person qualified for a provisional certificate. Direct supervision and the determination of qualifications may also be provided by a building code administrator who holds a limited or provisional certificate in a county having a population of fewer than 75,000 and in a municipality located within such county.



(10)(a) The board may by rule create categories of certification in addition to those defined in s. ~~468.603(5) and (8) 468.603(6) and (7)~~. Such certification categories shall not be mandatory and shall not act to diminish the scope of any certificate created by statute.

(b) The board shall by rule establish:

1. Reciprocity of certification with any other state that requires an examination administered by the International Code Council.

2. That an applicant for certification as a building code inspector or plans examiner may apply for a provisional certificate valid for the duration of the internship period.

3. That partial completion of an internship program may be transferred between jurisdictions on a form prescribed by the board.

4. That an applicant may apply for a standard certificate on a form prescribed by the board upon successful completion of an internship certification program.

5. That an applicant may apply for a standard certificate at least 30 days and no more than 60 days before completing the internship certification program.

6. That a building code inspector or plans examiner who has standard certification may seek an additional certification in another category by completing an additional nonconcurrent 1-year internship program in the certification category sought and passing an examination administered by the International Code Council and a board-approved 40-hour code training course.

Section 6. Subsection (3) of section 468.617, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

468.617 Joint building code inspection department; other arrangements.

(3) Nothing in this part shall prohibit any county or municipal government, school board, community college board, state university, or state agency from entering into any contract with any person or entity for the provision of building code administrator, building official, or building code inspection services regulated under this part, and notwithstanding any other statutory provision, such county or municipal governments may enter into contracts.

Section 7. Paragraphs (d) and (i) of subsection (1) and subsection (2) of section 553.791, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

553.791 Alternative plans review and inspection.—

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(d) “Building code inspection services” means those services described in s. ~~468.603(5) and (8) 468.603(6) and (7)~~ involving the review of building plans to determine compliance with applicable codes and those inspections required by law of each phase of construction for which permitting by a local enforcement agency is required to determine compliance with applicable codes.

(i) “Private provider” means a person licensed as a building code administrator under part XII of chapter 468, as an engineer under chapter 471, or as an architect under chapter 481. For purposes of performing inspections under this section for additions and alterations that are limited to 1,000 square feet or less to residential buildings, the term “private provider” also includes a person who holds a standard certificate under part XII of chapter 468.

(2)(a) Notwithstanding any other law or local government ordinance or local policy, the fee owner of a building or structure, or the fee owner’s contractor upon written authorization from the fee owner, may choose to use a private provider to provide building code inspection services with regard to such building or structure and may make payment directly to the private provider for the provision of such services. All such services shall be the subject of a written contract between the private provider, or the private provider’s firm, and the fee owner or the fee owner’s contractor, upon written authorization of the fee owner. The fee owner may elect to use a private provider to provide plans review or required building inspections, or both. However, if the fee owner or the fee owner’s contractor uses a private provider to provide plans review, the local building official, in his or her discretion and pursuant to duly adopted policies of the local enforcement agency, may require the fee owner or the fee owner’s contractor to use a private provider to also provide required building inspections.

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature that owners and contractors not be required to pay extra costs related to building permitting requirements when hiring a private provider for plans review and building inspections. A local jurisdiction must calculate the cost savings to the local enforcement agency, based on a fee owner or contractor hiring a private provider to perform plans reviews and building inspections in lieu of the local building official, and reduce the permit fees accordingly.

Section 8. Section 471.045, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

471.045 Professional engineers performing building code inspector duties.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person who is currently licensed under this chapter to practice as a professional engineer may provide building code inspection services described in s. ~~468.603(5) and (8) 468.603(6) and (7)~~ to a local government or state agency upon its request, without being certified by the Florida Building Code Administrators and Inspectors Board under part XII of chapter 468. When performing these building code inspection services, the professional engineer is subject to the disciplinary guidelines of this chapter and s. 468.621(1)(c)-(h). Any

complaint processing, investigation, and discipline that arise out of a professional engineer's performing building code inspection services shall be conducted by the Board of Professional Engineers rather than the Florida Building Code Administrators and Inspectors Board. A professional engineer may not perform plans review as an employee of a local government upon any job that the professional engineer or the professional engineer's company designed.

Section 9. Section 481.222, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

481.222 Architects performing building code inspection services.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person who is currently licensed to practice as an architect under this part may provide building code inspection services described in s. ~~468.603(5) and (8)~~ ~~468.603(6) and (7)~~ to a local government or state agency upon its request, without being certified by the Florida Building Code Administrators and Inspectors Board under part XII of chapter 468. With respect to the performance of such building code inspection services, the architect is subject to the disciplinary guidelines of this part and s. 468.621(1)(c)-(h). Any complaint processing, investigation, and discipline that arise out of an architect's performance of building code inspection services shall be conducted by the Board of Architecture and Interior Design rather than the Florida Building Code Administrators and Inspectors Board. An architect may not perform plans review as an employee of a local government upon any job that the architect or the architect's company designed.

Section 10. Paragraph (d) of subsection (7) of section 553.80, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

553.80 Enforcement.—

(7) The governing bodies of local governments may provide a schedule of reasonable fees, as authorized by s. 125.56(2) or s. 166.222 and this section, for enforcing this part. These fees, and any fines or investment earnings related to the fees, shall be used solely for carrying out the local government's responsibilities in enforcing the Florida Building Code. When providing a schedule of reasonable fees, the total estimated annual revenue derived from fees, and the fines and investment earnings related to the fees, may not exceed the total estimated annual costs of allowable activities. Any unexpended balances shall be carried forward to future years for allowable activities or shall be refunded at the discretion of the local government. The basis for a fee structure for allowable activities shall relate to the level of service provided by the local government and shall include consideration for refunding fees due to reduced services based on services provided as prescribed by s. 553.791, but not provided by the local government. Fees charged shall be consistently applied.

(d) The local enforcement agency, independent district, or special district may not require at any time, including at the time of application for a permit, the payment of any additional fees, charges, or expenses associated with:

1. Providing proof of licensure pursuant to chapter 489;
2. Recording or filing a license issued pursuant to this chapter; or
3. Providing, recording, or filing evidence of workers' compensation insurance coverage as required by chapter 440.

Section 11. Subsection (3) of section 553.73, Florida Statutes, is amended, paragraph (d) is added to subsection (4) of that section, subsections (7) and (8) and paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (9) of that section are amended, and subsection (20) is added to that section, to read:

553.73 Florida Building Code.—

(3) The commission shall use the International Codes published by the International Code Council, the National Electric Code (NFPA 70), or other nationally adopted model codes and standards for updates to needed to develop the base code in Florida to form the foundation for the Florida Building Code. The Florida Building commission may approve technical amendments to the code as provided in, ~~subject to~~ subsections (8) and (9), ~~after the amendments have been subject to~~ all of the following conditions:

(a) The proposed amendment must have ~~has~~ been published on the commission's website for a minimum of 45 days and all the associated documentation must have ~~has~~ been made available to any interested party before ~~any~~ consideration by a technical advisory committee.;

(b) In order for a technical advisory committee to make a favorable recommendation to the commission, the proposal must receive a two-thirds ~~three-fourths~~ vote of the members present at the ~~technical advisory committee meeting.~~ and At least half of the regular members must be present in order to conduct a meeting.;

(c) After the technical advisory committee has considered and recommended ~~consideration and a recommendation for~~ approval of any proposed amendment, the proposal must be published on the commission's website for at least 45 days before ~~any~~ consideration by the commission.;

(d) A proposal may be modified by the commission based on public testimony and evidence from a public hearing held in accordance with chapter 120.

The commission shall incorporate within ~~sections of the Florida Building Code provisions that which~~ address regional and local concerns and variations. The commission shall make every effort to minimize conflicts between the Florida Building Code, the Florida Fire Prevention Code, and the Life Safety Code.

(4)

(d) A technical amendment to the Florida Building Code related to water conservation practices or design criteria adopted by a local government pursuant to this subsection is not rendered void when the code is updated if the technical amendment is necessary to protect or provide for more efficient use of water resources as provided in s. 373.621. However, any such technical amendment carried forward into the next edition of the code pursuant to this paragraph is subject to review or modification as provided in this part.

~~(7)(a) The commission, by rule adopted pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54, shall adopt an updated update the Florida Building Code every 3 years through review of. When updating the Florida Building Code, the commission shall select the most current updates version of the International Building Code, the International Fuel Gas Code, International Existing Building Code, the International Mechanical Code, the International Plumbing Code, and the International Residential Code, all of which are copyrighted and published by adopted by the International Code Council, and the National Electrical Code, which is copyrighted and published adopted by the National Fire Protection Association. At a minimum, the commission shall adopt any updates to such codes or any other code necessary to maintain eligibility for federal funding and discounts from the National Flood Insurance Program, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, to form the foundation codes of the updated Florida Building Code, if the version has been adopted by the applicable model code entity. The commission shall also review and adopt updates based on select the most current version of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) as a foundation code; however, the IECC shall be modified by the commission shall to maintain the efficiencies of the Florida Energy Efficiency Code for Building Construction adopted and amended pursuant to s. 553.901. The commission shall adopt updated codes by rule.~~

(b) Codes regarding noise contour lines shall be reviewed annually, and the most current federal guidelines shall be adopted.

(c) The commission may adopt as a technical amendment to the Florida Building Code modify any portion of the foundation codes identified in paragraph (a), but only as needed to accommodate the specific needs of this state. Standards or criteria adopted from these referenced by the codes shall be incorporated by reference to the specific provisions adopted. If a referenced standard or criterion requires amplification or modification to be appropriate for use in this state, only the amplification or modification shall be set forth in the Florida Building Code. The commission may approve technical amendments to the updated Florida Building Code after the amendments have been subject to the conditions set forth in paragraphs (3)(a)-(d). Amendments that to the foundation codes which are adopted in accordance with this subsection shall be clearly marked in printed versions of the Florida Building Code so that the fact that the provisions are Florida-specific amendments to the foundation codes is readily apparent.

(d) The commission shall further consider the commission's own interpretations, declaratory statements, appellate decisions, and approved statewide and local technical amendments and shall incorporate such interpretations, statements, decisions, and amendments into the updated Florida Building Code only to the extent that they are needed to ~~modify the foundation codes to~~ accommodate the specific needs of the state. A change made by an institute or standards organization to any standard or criterion that is adopted by reference in the Florida Building Code does not become effective statewide until it has been adopted by the commission. Furthermore, the edition of the Florida Building Code which is in effect on the date of application for any permit authorized by the code governs the permitted work for the life of the permit and any extension granted to the permit.

(e) A rule updating the Florida Building Code in accordance with this subsection shall take effect no sooner than 6 months after publication of the updated code. Any amendment to the Florida Building Code which is adopted upon a finding by the commission that the amendment is necessary to protect the public from immediate threat of harm takes effect immediately.

(f) Provisions of the Florida Building Code ~~foundation codes~~, including those contained in referenced standards and criteria, relating to wind resistance or the prevention of water intrusion may not be modified to diminish those construction requirements; however, the commission may, subject to conditions in this subsection, modify the provisions to enhance those construction requirements.

~~(g) Amendments or modifications to the foundation code pursuant to this subsection shall remain effective only until the effective date of a new edition of the Florida Building Code every third year. Amendments or modifications related to state agency regulations which are adopted and integrated into an edition of the Florida Building Code shall be carried forward into the next edition of the code, subject to modification as provided in this part. Amendments or modifications related to the wind-resistance design of buildings and structures within the high-velocity hurricane zone of Miami-Dade and Broward Counties which are adopted to an edition of the Florida Building Code do not expire and shall be carried forward into the next edition of the code, subject to review or modification as provided in this part. If amendments that expire pursuant to this paragraph are resubmitted through the Florida Building commission code adoption process, the amendments must specifically address whether:~~

1. ~~The provisions contained in the proposed amendment are addressed in the applicable international code.~~

2. ~~The amendment demonstrates by evidence or data that the geographical jurisdiction of Florida exhibits a need to strengthen the foundation code beyond the needs or regional variations addressed by the foundation code, and why the proposed amendment applies to this state.~~

~~3.—The proposed amendment was submitted or attempted to be included in the foundation codes to avoid resubmission to the Florida Building Code amendment process.~~

~~If the proposed amendment has been addressed in the international code in a substantially equivalent manner, the Florida Building commission may not include the proposed amendment in the foundation Code.~~

(8) ~~Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (3) or subsection (7), the commission may address issues identified in this subsection by amending the code pursuant only to the rule adoption procedures contained in chapter 120. Provisions of Updates to the Florida Building Code, including provisions those contained in referenced standards and criteria which relate, relating to wind resistance or the prevention of water intrusion, may not be amended pursuant to this subsection to diminish those standards construction requirements; however, the commission may, subject to conditions in this subsection, amend the Florida Building Code the provisions to enhance such standards those construction requirements.~~ Following the approval of any amendments to the Florida Building Code by the commission and publication of the amendments on the commission’s website, authorities having jurisdiction to enforce the Florida Building Code may enforce the amendments. The commission may approve amendments that are needed to address:

- (a) Conflicts within the updated code;
- (b) Conflicts between the updated code and the Florida Fire Prevention Code adopted pursuant to chapter 633;
- (c) Unintended results from the integration of previously adopted Florida-specific amendments with the model code;
- (d) Equivalency of standards;
- (e) Changes to or inconsistencies with federal or state law; or
- (f) Adoption of an updated edition of the National Electrical Code if the commission finds that delay of implementing the updated edition causes undue hardship to stakeholders or otherwise threatens the public health, safety, and welfare.

(9)(a) The commission may approve technical amendments to the Florida Building Code once each year for statewide or regional application upon a finding that the amendment:

- 1. Is needed in order to accommodate the specific needs of this state.
- 2. Has a reasonable and substantial connection with the health, safety, and welfare of the general public.

3. Strengthens or improves the Florida Building Code, or in the case of innovation or new technology, will provide equivalent or better products or methods or systems of construction.

4. Does not discriminate against materials, products, methods, or systems of construction of demonstrated capabilities.

5. Does not degrade the effectiveness of the Florida Building Code.

The Florida Building Commission may approve technical amendments to the code once each year to incorporate into the Florida Building Code its own interpretations of the code which are embodied in its opinions, final orders, declaratory statements, and interpretations of hearing officer panels under s. 553.775(3)(c), but only to the extent that the incorporation of interpretations is needed to modify the ~~code foundation~~ codes to accommodate the specific needs of this state. Amendments approved under this paragraph shall be adopted by rule after the amendments have been subjected to subsection (3).

(b) A proposed amendment must include a fiscal impact statement that documents the costs and benefits of the proposed amendment. Criteria for the fiscal impact statement shall be established by rule by the commission and shall include the impact to local government relative to enforcement, the impact to property and building owners, and the impact to industry, relative to the cost of compliance. The amendment must demonstrate by evidence or data that the state's geographical jurisdiction exhibits a need to strengthen the ~~foundation~~ code beyond the needs or regional variations addressed by the ~~foundation~~ code and why the proposed amendment applies to this state.

(20) The Florida Building Commission may not:

(a) Adopt the 2016 version of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers Standard 9.4.1.1(g).

(b) Adopt any provision that requires a door located in the opening between a garage and a single-family residence to be equipped with a self-closing device.

Section 12. Subsection (2) of section 553.76, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

553.76 General powers of the commission.—The commission is authorized to:

(2) Issue memoranda of procedure for its internal management and control. The commission may adopt rules related to its consensus-based decisionmaking process, including, but not limited to, super majority voting requirements ~~for commission actions relating to the adoption of the Florida Building Code or amendments to the code.~~ However, the commission must adopt the Florida Building Code, and amendments thereto, by at least a two-thirds vote of the members present at a meeting.



Section 13. Section 553.9081, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

553.9081 Florida Building Code; required amendments.—The Florida Building Commission shall amend the Florida Building Code-Energy Conservation to:

(1)(a) Eliminate duplicative commissioning reporting requirements for HVAC and electrical systems; and

(b) Authorize commissioning reports to be provided by a licensed design professional, electrical engineer, or mechanical engineer.

(2) Prohibit the adoption of American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers Standard 9.4.1.1(g).

Section 14. Subsection (8) of section 633.208, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

633.208 Minimum firesafety standards.—

(8)(a) The provisions of the Life Safety Code, as contained in the Florida Fire Prevention Code, do not apply to one-family and two-family dwellings. However, fire sprinkler protection may be permitted by local government in lieu of other fire protection-related development requirements for such structures. While local governments may adopt fire sprinkler requirements for ~~one-family one-~~ and two-family dwellings under this subsection, it is the intent of the Legislature that the economic consequences of the fire sprinkler mandate on home owners be studied before the enactment of such a requirement. After the effective date of this act, any local government that desires to adopt a fire sprinkler requirement on one-family one- or two-family dwellings must prepare an economic cost and benefit report that analyzes the application of fire sprinklers to one-family one- or two-family dwellings or any proposed residential subdivision. The report must consider the tradeoffs and specific cost savings and benefits of fire sprinklers for future owners of property. The report must include an assessment of the cost savings from any reduced or eliminated impact fees if applicable, the reduction in special fire district tax, insurance fees, and other taxes or fees imposed, and the waiver of certain infrastructure requirements including the reduction of roadway widths, the reduction of water line sizes, increased fire hydrant spacing, increased dead-end roadway length, and a reduction in cul-de-sac sizes relative to the costs from fire sprinkling. A failure to prepare an economic report shall result in the invalidation of the fire sprinkler requirement to any one-family one- or two-family dwelling or any proposed subdivision. In addition, a local jurisdiction or utility may not charge any additional fee, above what is charged to a non-fire sprinklered dwelling, on the basis that a one-family one- or two-family dwelling unit is protected by a fire sprinkler system.

(b)1. A county, municipality, special taxing district, public utility, or private utility may not require an impact fee or payment for a separate water

connection for a one-family or two-family dwelling fire sprinkler system if the capacity required is hydraulically available at the property line. The accountholder of the one-family or two-family dwelling must notify the county, municipality, special district, public utility, or private utility of the installation of the separate water connection in the applicable permit. The separate water connection may only be used for one-family or two-family dwelling fire sprinkler systems and if used for other purposes, full base and volume charges may be applied.

2. A county, municipality, special district, public utility, or private utility may not charge a water or sewer rate to a one-family or two-family dwelling that requires a larger water meter solely due to the installation of fire sprinklers above that which is charged to a one-family and two-family dwelling with a base meter. If the installation of fire sprinklers in a one-family or two-family dwelling requires the installation of a larger water meter, only the difference in actual cost between the base water meter and the larger water meter may be charged by the water utility provider.

Section 15. A local government may not require an owner of a residence to obtain a permit to paint such residence, regardless of whether the residence is owned by a limited liability company.

Section 16. The Department of Education, in conjunction with the Department of Economic Opportunity, shall develop a plan to implement the recommendations of the Construction Industry Workforce Task Force Report dated January 20, 2017. The Department of Education shall provide the plan to the Construction Industry Workforce Task Force on or before July 1, 2018.

Section 17. CareerSource Florida, Inc., shall develop and submit a plan to the Construction Industry Workforce Taskforce of the potential opportunities for training programs to implement the recommendations of the Construction Industry Workforce Taskforce Report dated January 20, 2017, using existing federal funds awarded to the corporation and using the previous statewide Florida ReBuilds program as an implementation model for such programs. CareerSource Florida, Inc., shall provide the plan to the Construction Industry Workforce Taskforce on or before July 1, 2018.

Section 18. The Florida Building Commission shall adopt an amendment to the Florida Building Code-Residential, relating to Door Components, to provide that, relating to substitution of door components, such components must either:

(1) Comply with ANSI/WMA 100; or

(2) Be evaluated by an approved product evaluation entity, certification agency, testing laboratory, or engineer and may be interchangeable in exterior door assemblies if the components provide equal or greater structural performance as demonstrated by accepted engineering practices.

Section 19. Present subsection (5) of section 489.516, Florida Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (6), and a new subsection (5) is added to that section, to read:

489.516 Qualifications to practice; restrictions; prerequisites.—

(5) This part does not prevent any certified electrical or alarm system contractor from acting as a prime contractor when the majority of the work to be performed under the contract is within the scope of his or her license or from subcontracting to other licensed contractors any remaining work that is part of the project contracted.

Section 20. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.

Approved by the Governor June 23, 2017.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 23, 2017.