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Idaho State Legislature

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Rules Review Subcommittee of the Senate Commerce & Human Resources Committee and the House Business Committee

FROM: Senior Legislative Research Analyst - Elizabeth Bowen

DATE: September 26, 2016

SUBJECT: Department of Insurance

IDAPA 18.01.50 - Adoption of the International Fire Code - Proposed Rule (Docket No. 18-0150-1601)

The Department of Insurance submits notice of proposed rulemaking at IDAPA 18.01.50. The purpose of the rule is to adopt the 2015 International Fire Code in anticipation of the companion International Building Code being adopted by the Division of Building Safety.

Negotiated rulemaking was conducted, and there is no negative fiscal impact on the state general fund. The Department states that the rulemaking is authorized pursuant to the following sections of the Idaho Code:

- Section 41-211, which permits rulemaking by the director of the Department of Insurance; and
- Section 41-254, which requires the state fire marshal, appointed by the director, to enforce the International Fire Code.

cc: Department of Insurance
Knute Sandahl, State Fire Marshal

TEMPLATE FOR SYNOPSIS FOR INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE SYNOPSIS

In compliance with Section 67-5223(4), Idaho Code, the following is a synopsis of the differences between the materials previously incorporated by reference in this rule that are currently of full force and effect and newly revised or amended versions of these same materials that are being proposed for incorporation by reference under this rulemaking.

The following agency of the state of Idaho has prepared this synopsis as part of the proposed rulemaking for the chapter cited here under the docket number specified:

Department of Insurance
IDAPA 18.01.50 - Rules Governing the adoption of the 2015 International Fire Code
Proposed Rulemaking - Docket No. 18-0150-1601

The 2015 edition of the International Fire Code is a model code provided by a consensus of fire code officials, fire inspectors, building officials, design professionals, contractors, and many others interested in fire safety. In this edition, many of the changes clarify requirements for general fire safety and address security concerns, keeping fire safety in mind in our changing environment.

The fire code provides safeguards for new technologies and manufacturing processes and provides allowances for the use of new fire safety systems. New technologies are also incorporated to provide end users and designers more, cost effective options to provide a high level of fire safety.

Notable significant changes to the fire code are:

- Requirements for emergency preparedness and evacuation plans and training of employees.
- Fire sprinkler requirements for buildings with assembly occupancies on roofs and an occupant load greater than 100.
- Exempts fire sprinklers in bathrooms in residential occupancies with an area of less than 55 square feet.
- Recognizes the effectiveness of water mist sprinkler systems and provides an opportunity for these systems to be installed where appropriate.
- Provides the use of residential cooking appliances and appropriate fire protection of these surfaces in institutional occupancies (Nursing Homes, Assisted Living, etc.)

- Increases the occupant load, requiring a manual fire alarm, from 30 to 50 in educational occupancies and the requirement for voice evacuation fire alarm systems to 100.
- Provide clarification of the installation of smoke alarms near cooking appliances and bathrooms, thus reducing the number of nuisance alarms.
- Provides additional requirements and design criteria for smoke control systems in multi-story buildings
- Provides additional requirements and clarification of carbon monoxide detection in occupancies utilizing fuel burning appliances and heating.
- Numerous changes in means of egress and components. Most notable is the increase in travel distance to a means of egress in factory and storage occupancies.
- Temporary stage canopies has been added to the code to address concerns on construction and egress in response to a number of collapses during events.