

REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended, Be Printed Engrossed, and Rescind the Subsequent Referral to the Committee on Ways and Means
Vote: 5 - 0 - 0
Yeas: Deckert, George L., Monnes Anderson, Starr, Metsger
Nays: 0
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: Janet Adkins, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 3/15, 3/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Expands the scope of the Building Codes Division electronic building codes information and permitting system (E-permitting system). Requires the agency to make the system available for use by all municipalities administering and enforcing building inspection programs. Adds electronic submission of plans for review to the current pilot system. Authorizes the department to develop the form and format for exchanging information through the E-permit system. Imposes a five percent surcharge on permits to defray the cost of developing and administering the system, but allows the department to waive a portion if collections exceed actual costs. Allows the agency to develop uniform building code information standards for municipalities administering and enforcing building inspection programs. Declares an emergency and takes effect on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Support from wide range of organizations and local municipalities
- Work of the Statewide E-Permitting Workgroup and Statewide E-Permitting System Feasibility Task Force during the 2005-2007 interim
- Surcharge amounts
- Examples of how the online system is used
- Streamlining potential

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Sunsets the permit fee surcharge on January 2, 2018.

BACKGROUND: Senate Bill 713 (2003) authorized the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) to identify the resources necessary to develop a statewide electronic permit system for all building inspection program permits issued by local jurisdictions. The E-permitting project was first targeted for the Portland Tri-County region, with other jurisdictions being invited to participate with the passage of HB 3097 (2005). HB 3097 also authorized the Building Codes Division (BCD) to plan for additional implementation stages of statewide interoperability.

The system, when fully implemented, will offer one-stop electronic information and permitting, including electronic plan submissions for review, 24 hours a day. As with the tri-county pilot, contractors will be able to enter a building address and determine which jurisdiction covers the location. Other functions of the system will include tracking of plan reviews, inspection scheduling and tracking, and permit payment. The proposed system is supported by the building trades and contractors because it will streamline obtaining permits, reviews, and inspections, allowing them to submit information and obtain permits without making multiple trips to jurisdiction offices.

Funding for the proposed ten-year phase in of the system statewide will be supported by a surcharge on permit fees beginning January 1, 2008. If the applicant chooses to pay an hourly rate instead of purchasing a permit, a surcharge based upon the total hourly charges will be applied. DCBS will be allowed to waive a portion of the surcharge if the agency determines that the amount collected exceeds the actual cost of developing and administering the system.

The BCD has structured the E-permitting proposal to be implemented and sustainable with a four percent surcharge over ten years, and has stated that no rate changes will be made without stakeholder involvement and support.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.