

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Kahl
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Verger

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass

Vote: 15 – 5 – 2

House

Yeas: Buckley, D. Edwards, Galizio, Jenson, Kotek, Nathanson, Shields

Nays: Garrard, Gilman, Richardson, G. Smith

Exc: Komp

Senate

Yeas: Bates, Carter, Johnson, Monroe, Nelson, Verger, Walker, Winters

Nays: Girod

Exc: Whitsett

Prepared By: Doug Wilson, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: June 11, 2009

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Increases fees charged by the State Fire Marshal’s liquefied petroleum gas license and inspection program. Establishes a second increase, effective July 1, 2011. Authorizes transfer of gas fitter licenses and gas truck equipment licenses.

SB 91 increases industry fees in two steps during the 2009-11 biennium to ensure adequate funding through the 2011-13 biennium. The most recent fee increase was in 2003. Fee increases proposed by SB 91 are as follows:

	<u>Current</u>	<u>January 1, 2010</u>	<u>July 1, 2011</u>
Examination fee	\$ 40	\$ 55	\$ 55
LP gas installation license (annual)	85	120	130
LP gas fitter license (biennial)	15	50	60
LP gas truck equipment license (biennial)	15	50	60
Late fee minimum	15	30	30
Installation fee	35	45	50
Container inspection	35	45	50
Re-inspection	24	100	125

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- When the fees were last raised
- Why the fees were increase the amount they are in the bill

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Individuals and businesses installing or servicing propane tanks must first obtain liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) licenses from the Office of State Fire Marshal. LPG program costs include personnel, supplies, and other costs supporting inspection and licensing services. LPG licensing has been in place since the 1950s; inspections of residential propane tanks began in 2000. Propane tank installations are inspected to ensure fire safety, because fire code violations, even minor ones, may lead to catastrophic fires or explosions. In 2007, the LPG program inspected 17 percent of all new residential propane tank installations. Of these, approximately 55 percent were found to have violations of the fire code.