

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Business and Labor

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 05/04/15

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 05/04

Vote:

Yeas: 10 - Barreto, Barton, Doherty, Esquivel, Evans, Heard, Holvey, Kennemer, Nosse, Weidner

Exc: 1 - Fagan

Prepared By: Jan Nordlund, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes the Department of Business and Consumer Services to develop system that provides electronic access to building codes information available to public bodies that provide construction-related services. Prohibits Department from taking disciplinary action against public body that chooses not to participate in the system. Eliminates January 2, 2018, sunset on building permit surcharge used to defray cost of developing and administering electronic building codes information system. Reduces surcharge from five percent of permit fees to four percent.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Efficiencies for both government and contractors
- Use of surcharge to pay for e-permitting

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2003, the Building Codes Division of the Department of Consumer and Business Services worked with local governments and contractors to implement a pilot project for an electronic, or e-permitting, building permit system. Legislation was passed in 2005 and 2007 that transitioned the program from pilot to a regional, then statewide, service to contractors and local governments. House Bill 2405 (2007) sunset the e-permitting system on January 2, 2018, in order to allow evaluation and renewal.

Senate Bill 133-A removes the sunset and makes e-permitting available to additional local governments that provide construction-related services. The measure also reduces the permit fee surcharge collected to defray the cost of developing and administering e-permitting.