

**HB 2164 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**House Committee On Business and Labor**

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**Meeting Dates:** 2/15

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires cities, counties and other government entities that administer and enforce building inspection programs to provide electronic access to building code information and services by January 1, 2020.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF 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 building permit system referred to as e-permitting. The system allows contractors to apply, pay and receive building permit approvals online and around the clock. Legislation was passed in 2005 and 2007 that transitioned the program from pilot to a regional, then statewide, service to contractors and local governments with a sunset date in 2018. In 2015, the Legislative Assembly removed the sunset, reduced the surcharge that supports the e-permitting system. The surcharge is equal to four percent of the permit fee and is paid by all contractors regardless of whether the jurisdiction participates in the e-permitting system. Use of the system by cities and counties is voluntary and the Department is prohibited from taking any adverse action against an entity that chooses not to use the system. As of 2015, there were 60 city and county jurisdictions using the e-permitting system.

House Bill 2164 requires municipalities that administer and enforce building inspection programs to either use the Department's e-permitting system or to provide access to an equivalent system by January 1, 2020. The Department must approve the alternative to its e-permitting system.