

HB 4119 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Natural Resources

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Meeting Dates: 2/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Imposes American Society of Civil Engineers 7-16 tsunami design standards for certain buildings and structures. Allows local government to impose vertical evacuation standards for new or existing buildings and structures as part of a local tsunami evacuation plan. Requires that sites for new structures be evaluated for vulnerability to seismic geologic hazards if the structures are essential facilities, hazardous facilities, major structures, or special occupancy structures, or are designated as having specified tsunami risk for design. Requires a developer of a building owned by a public body and designated as having specified tsunami risk for design, to obtain a determination and suggestions from the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI). Requires DOGAMI to report annually regarding requests, determinations, and suggestions. Makes tsunami design standards, the site review requirement, and the department determination and suggestion requirement applicable to buildings receiving an initial building permit on or after July 1, 2021.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Since 1995, the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) has been required to use geological field data and tsunami modeling to establish parameters of expected tsunami inundation and to adopt by rule the tsunami inundation zone. In 2019, the legislature adopted House Bill 3309, which repealed the prohibition against building new essential facilities in the tsunami inundation zone, repealed the requirement that DOGAMI adopt tsunami inundation zone parameters, and changed exemptions under the surface mining definition.

The State Building Code provides uniform, statewide standards for the construction, reconstruction, alteration, and repair of buildings. The State Building Code does not currently include tsunami resilient design provisions. The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) produces tsunami and earthquake design standards in partnership with the Structural Engineering Institute.

House Bill 4119 would require tsunami design standards for certain buildings and structures, require that specific sites for new structures be evaluated for seismic hazards, and require that developers of specific tsunami risk buildings owned by a public body obtain determination and suggestions from DOGAMI effective July 1, 2021.