

**HB 4119 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Carrier: Rep. Gomberg, Rep.  
Smith DB**House Committee On Natural Resources**


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**Action Date:** 02/13/20  
**Action:** Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)  
**Vote:** 6-1-0-0  
**Yeas:** 6 - Barreto, Lively, Reardon, Smith DB, Sprenger, Witt  
**Nays:** 1 - Gorsek  
**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact  
**Revenue:** No revenue impact  
**Prepared By:** Laura Kentnesse, LPRO Analyst  
**Meeting Dates:** 2/6, 2/13

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Imposes American Society of Civil Engineers 7-16 (ASCE 7-16) tsunami design standards on Risk Category III and IV 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. Allows the Department of Consumer and Business Services to require that sites for new structures be evaluated for vulnerability to seismic geologic hazards if the structures are designated as Risk Category III or IV under ASCE 7-16. Requires a developer of a proposed Risk Category III or IV public building to obtain a tsunami impact determination and risk mitigation suggestions from the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI). Requires DOGAMI to respond to the developer within 45 days of receiving the request, and to report to the Legislative Assembly annually regarding requests, determinations, and suggestions. Makes the ASCE 7-16 tsunami design standard requirement and the DOGAMI consultation requirement applicable to buildings receiving an initial building permit on or after July 1, 2021.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- House Bill 3309 (2019), which allowed for development of essential facilities and special occupancy facilities in tsunami inundation zones
- American Society of Civil Engineers 7-16 (ASCE 7-16) standards have been adopted by California, Washington, Alaska, and Hawaii
- Some coastal communities do not have upland options for development
- Local government choice whether to construct these facilities in tsunami inundation zones
- ASCE 7-16 design standards for vertical evacuation refuge structures are not required under this measure

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Replaces structural specialty code "contrary standard" with "other standards" in the notwithstanding clause for tsunami design standard requirements.

**BACKGROUND:**

The American Society of Civil Engineers 7-16 (ASCE 7-16) is a publication jointly produced by ASCE and the Structural Engineering Institute that describes minimum tsunami and earthquake design standards for certain buildings and structures. Under the ASCE 7-16, Risk Category III buildings include buildings that would pose a substantial hazard to human life in the event of failure, such as public assembly buildings, education institutions, residential care facilities, power-generating stations, water and wastewater treatment facilities, certain public utility facilities, and any building with more than 5,000 people. Risk Category IV buildings are essential facilities such as surgery or emergency treatment facilities; fire, rescue, ambulance, and police stations; emergency vehicle garages; designated earthquake, hurricane, or other emergency shelters; designated emergency preparedness,

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communications, and operations centers for emergency response; power-generating stations; buildings containing quantities of highly toxic materials; aviation control towers, air traffic control centers, and emergency aircraft hangars; buildings with critical national defense functions; and water storage facilities and pump structures for fire suppression.

In 1995, the legislature established a moratorium on constructing new essential buildings, like schools and hospitals, in the tsunami inundation zone. In 2019, the legislature adopted House Bill 3309, which repealed that prohibition, effective January 1, 2020. The State Building Code does not currently include tsunami resilient design provisions for new facilities that may be built in the tsunami inundation zone in 2020 and beyond.

House Bill 4119-A would impose ASCE 7-16 tsunami design standards on certain buildings and structures, allow the Department of Consumer and Business Services to require that sites for certain new structures be evaluated for seismic vulnerability, and require a developer of a proposed high-risk public building to obtain a tsunami impact determination and risk mitigation suggestions from DOGAMI, effective July 1, 2021.