

HB 2415 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Carrier:** Rep. Fahey**House Committee On Business and Labor****Action Date:** 03/31/21**Action:** Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)**Vote:** 10-0-1-0**Yeas:** 10 - Bonham, Boshart Davis, Breese-Iverson, Clem, Evans, Fahey, Grayber, Holvey, Post, Witt**Exc:** 1 - Bynum**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** No revenue impact**Prepared By:** Jan Nordlund, LPRO Analyst**Meeting Dates:** 3/17, 3/31**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires local government that administers and enforces a building inspection program to use the electronic building code system offered by the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) or their own equivalent system. Directs DCBS to adopt rules establishing minimum standards and statewide consistency in electronic processes for reviewing building code plans, issuing permits, and performing field inspections. Requires municipality to meet these minimum standards whether the municipality uses DCBS' system or an equivalent system. Expands features required in DCBS' system to include electronic payment for permit applications; electronic receipt of plan approvals and permits; and performance of electronic field inspections, construction progress inspections, and on-site verification of compliance with building code requirements. Becomes operative January 1, 2025. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of electronic permit system and long lead time for local governments to adopt DCBS' system or develop own equivalent system
- Application to all permits, not only plumbing and electrical permits
- Convenience of e-permit system to permit applicants

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Directs the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) to adopt rules establishing minimum standards and statewide consistency in electronic processes for reviewing plans, issuing permits, and performing field inspections. Requires municipality to meet these minimum standards whether the municipality uses DCBS' system or an equivalent system. Deletes requirement that DCBS conduct study.

BACKGROUND:

In 2003, the Building Codes Division of the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) 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 access building code information, submit permit applications and plans for review, and schedule inspections online and around the clock. Legislation was passed in 2005 and 2007 that transitioned the program from a 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 and 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 DCBS is prohibited from taking any adverse action against an entity that chooses not to use the system.

HB 2415 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Bill 2415 A requires local governments that administer and enforce a building inspection program to use DCBS' e-permitting system or their own equivalent system by January 1, 2025. The measure also expands the features an e-permitting system must include.