



Guidance in Adoption of RCW 19.27.700

During the 2020 legislative session, House Bill 2701 created Revised Code of Washington sections 19.27.700 through 19.27.740. The new RCW language creates inspection and testing of fire and smoke control systems regulations. The Association opposed the bill during the hearings. The Association supports the inspection and testing of smoke control systems, but took issues with the unfunded mandate, inspection and testing personnel qualifications, the July 1st, 2021 implementation date, and that the regulations were not found in the Washington Administrative Code.

The Association made several attempts during the 2021 legislative session to fix and clarify the language to no avail. There was some movement made at the State Building Code Council to support the formation of a taskforce of stakeholders, regulators, and legislators to draft comprehensive language for the 2022 legislative session. We will be taking the lead in the formation and facilitation of this taskforce. We are confident that we will be successful in the development of new language which will address the main concerns of the existing language.

Since this language is an RCW, any implementation of these provisions at the local level will require a standalone ordinance. We are recommending caution for any of our member agencies when considering a local adoption for the reasons stated above. Please contact the Association for any assistance or information.