



KEY POINTS

- The state's electrical codes are inconsistent and not well coordinated with other codes.
- The legislature needs to investigate how to better develop and coordinate the electrical code.
- Code officials are crucial to the oversight and enforcement of public safety code laws.
- With today's complex building codes, officials need more experience and training.
- A nominal two dollar permit fee would fund a much needed code official apprenticeship training program.

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SUPPORT EFFECTIVE CODE ENFORCEMENT

Support HB 2213 and SB 6019 to Study Effective Development of the State's Electrical Codes

HB 2213 Sponsors: Rep. Takko and Springer

SB 6019 Sponsors: Sen. Roach, Fraser, and Chase

Current laws regarding adoption and enforcement of the state electrical code are complex and not well coordinated with the state's other building codes. This system needs to be examined by the Legislature.

Local governments are authorized to enforce most of the state's building, fire, plumbing, energy and mechanical codes. However, the electrical code is enforced by the Department of Labor & Industries (L&I). County governments are not authorized to have electrical inspection programs.

Architects expect clarity, certainty and consistency in code development and enforcement. The current electrical code has provisions that conflict with other codes adopted by the state, especially the state energy code.

Most of the state's codes are adopted through an open public process at the State Building Code Council. The electrical code is adopted by L&I. This has caused a fracturing of code development and enforcement with many cities developing and enforcing their own codes. Differing standards increase the costs of design and construction.

Support HB 2214 and SB 6018 to Fund an Apprenticeship Training Program for Code Officials

HB 2214 Sponsors: Rep. Takko and Springer

SB 6018 Sponsors: Sen. Fraser, and Chase

HB 2214 and SB 6018 would provide a secure funding source for the *Code Official Apprenticeship Program*, which provides consistent, quality training for building code inspectors.

Architects and their clients rely upon having knowledgeable building officials reviewing their plans and projects.

This bill implements a nominal two dollar fee per permit to fund the Code Official Apprenticeship Program. Washington Association of Building Officials (WABO) apprenticeship training program has been approved by the State of Washington and the U.S. Department of Labor. The term of apprenticeship is 6,000 hours and offers an intensive three-year training program, which includes classroom education and on-the-job experience.

Code Officials safeguard the public health and safety through the development, enforcement, and administration of Washington State building construction codes and standards adopted by the State Building Code Council, and ordinances at the county, city and town level. Today's codes are more complex than ever. As code officials retire or move to new positions, there are few qualified workers to take their place. It is very important to have trained men and women in these positions.

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