

IMPACT STATEMENT

Legislation title: Engage stakeholders in discussions and report on the fire hazards presented by existing high-rise buildings built and/or permitted prior to 1974 and the feasibility of fire sprinkler installation and other fire hazard suppression methods; direct Portland Fire & Rescue to prepare amendments to Portland Fire Code based on stakeholder recommendations and feedback (Resolution)

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Presenter name: Mike Myers, Fire Chief

Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:

The purpose of this legislation is to request an amendment to the Portland Fire Code to require automatic fire sprinkler protection for existing high-rise buildings built and/or permitted prior to 1974 that are not otherwise directed to comply with sprinkler requirements by other Code sections.

Automatic fire sprinkler systems have proven to be highly effective in minimizing the loss of property and human life in the case of a fire, particularly in high-rise structures.

However, to mitigate financial impacts and to increase participant buy-in, changes to the City Code will be made only after receiving recommendations and feedback from a stakeholder group whose goal is to consider the most cost-effective manner of ensuring life safety and adequate fire suppression.

Financial and budgetary impacts:

Installation of automatic fire sprinkler systems in these high-rise structures will have no financial or budgetary impact for the City.

Community impacts and community involvement:

There are approximately 16 high-rise buildings in the city of Portland that submitted building permit applications prior to 1974 and were not subject to the fire sprinkler requirement. The installation of automatic fire sprinkler systems in these buildings is desirable to protect the life and property within these buildings. Occupants in several of these buildings include lower or fixed income individuals and those who are in traditionally underrepresented populations, who due to age, disability, or lack of financial resources, may be more vulnerable in a fire event.

This legislation would have a financial impact on owners and/or residents of the pre-1974 buildings. The financial impact is offset by protecting the public from critical fire events. To seek input from stakeholders and to mitigate the financial impact on building owners and/or residents, Portland Fire & Rescue will establish a multidisciplinary High-Rise Fire & Life Safety Stakeholders Group composed of knowledgeable and affected parties to explore options, requirements, timeframes, costs, incentives, and benefits related to the installation of the automatic fire sprinkler system.

Budgetary Impact Worksheet

Does this action change appropriations?

- YES:** Please complete the information below.
- NO:** Skip this section