



**City of Portland, Oregon**  
**Bureau of Development Services**  
**Office of the Director**  
FROM CONCEPT TO CONSTRUCTION

Dan Ryan, Commissioner  
Rebecca Esau, Director  
Phone: (503) 823-7300  
Fax: (503) 823-6983  
TTY: (503) 823-6868  
[www.portland.gov/bds](http://www.portland.gov/bds)

September 1, 2021

**To:** Mayor Wheeler  
Commissioner Hardesty  
Commissioner Mapps  
Commissioner Rubio  
Commissioner Ryan

**From:** Rebecca Esau, Director *RE*  
Bureau of Development Services

**Regarding: Proposed Amendments to City Code Title 24 (Building Regulations), Title 25 (Plumbing Regulations), and Title 26 (Electrical Regulations)**

**I. RECOMMENDATION**

Adopt the State of Oregon 2021 Editions of the Oregon Residential Specialty Code, Oregon Energy Efficiency Specialty Code, Oregon Plumbing Specialty Code, and the Oregon Electrical Specialty Code (Ordinance; amend Code Titles 24, 25, and 26).

**II. BACKGROUND**

The State of Oregon Building Codes Division enacted changes to several specialty codes: the Oregon Residential Specialty Code (ORSC), Oregon Energy Efficiency Specialty Code, Oregon Plumbing Specialty Code, and the Oregon Electrical Specialty Code. These new codes are based upon current editions of the International Building Code and the International Mechanical Code.

ORS 455.040 requires that the State Building Code be uniform throughout the State of Oregon. The City serves as the local administrator for the State Building Code and has adopted the State Residential, Energy Efficiency, Plumbing, and Electrical Specialty Codes by reference in Portland City Code Titles 24, 25, and 26.

To maintain consistency with the State Building Code, the City should revise the applicable sections of Titles 24, 25, and 26 to reference the current versions of the Oregon Residential Specialty Code, Oregon Energy Efficiency Specialty Code, Oregon Plumbing Specialty Code, and the Oregon Electrical Specialty Code. The attached ordinance accomplishes the State requirements by adopting new versions of these codes. The ordinance also amends the section of Title 24 that lists the structures and construction activities that BDS regulates based on revisions that the State Building Codes Division made to Chapter One of the Oregon Structural Specialty Code and the newly adopted Oregon Residential Specialty Code.

## IMPACT STATEMENT

**Legislation title:**

Adopt the State of Oregon 2021 Editions of the Oregon Residential Specialty Code, the Oregon Energy Efficiency Specialty Code, the Oregon Plumbing Specialty Code, and the Oregon Electrical Specialty Code (Ordinance; amend Code Titles 24, 25, and 26)

**Contact name:** Nancy Thorington, Sr. Code and Policy Analyst

**Contact phone:** 503-865-6438

**Presenter name:** Nancy Thorington

**Purpose of proposed ordinance and background information:**

This ordinance amends references in Titles 24, 25, and 26 to the current editions of the Oregon Residential Specialty Code, the Oregon Energy Efficiency Specialty Code, the Oregon Plumbing Specialty Code, and the Oregon Electrical Specialty Code, along with the International Codes on which they are based.

The City of Portland, Bureau of Development Services serves as the local administrator for the State Building Codes. The State of Oregon adopted the 2021 Oregon Residential Specialty Code, Oregon Energy Efficiency Specialty Code, Oregon Plumbing Specialty Code, and the Oregon Electrical Specialty Code. Consequently, the City must amend the local titles that reference these codes to reflect the current State adopted versions.

**Financial and budgetary impacts:**

There are no financial or budgetary impacts associated with the proposed ordinance outside of standard costs associated with code changes, including purchasing new code books and staff training. No new regulations are created by the proposed amendments.

**Community impacts and community involvement:**

No community involvement was conducted in the development of this ordinance. Limited outreach will be conducted to inform customers of the State code changes.

### Budgetary Impact Worksheet

**Does this action change appropriations?**

**YES:** Please complete the information below.

**NO:** Skip this section

Fund	Fund Center	Commitment Item	Functional Area	Funded Program	Grant	Sponsored Program	Amount