

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

NOTICE

D.C. LAW 5-183

"District of Columbia Residential, Commercial, and Institutional Structures Fire Protection Study Commission Act of 1984".

Pursuant to Section 412 of the District of Columbia Self-

Government and Governmental Reorganization Act, P. L. 93-198,

"the Act", the Council of the District of Columbia adopted Bill

No. 5-392 on first and second readings, December 4, 1984 and

December 18, 1984, respectively. Following the signature of

the Mayor on January 11, 1985, this legislation was assigned

Act No. 5-248, published in the February 15, 1985 edition of the

D.C. Register, (Vol. 32 page 841) and transmitted to Congress

January 24, 1985 for a 30-day review, in accordance with Section

602 (c)(1) of the Act.

The Council of the District of Columbia hereby gives notice

that the 30-day Congressional Review Period has expired, and

therefore, cites this enactment as D.C. Law 5-183, effective

March 16, 1985.

David A. Clarke
DAVID A. CLARKE
Chairman of the Council

Dates Counted During the 30-day Congressional Review Period:

January 24, 25, 28, 29, 30, 31

February 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28

March 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15

5-248

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To establish a Residential, Commercial, and Institutional Fire Protection Commission for the purposes of protecting the health, welfare, and safety of the citizens of the District of Columbia by providing low-cost residential, commercial, and institutional structures with sprinkler systems.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the "District of Columbia Residential, Commercial, and Institutional Structures Fire Protection Study Commission Act of 1984".

Sec. 2. Definitions.

For the purpose of this act, the term:

(1) "Commission" means the District of Columbia Residential, Commercial, and Institutional Structures Fire Protection Commission established by section 3.

(2) "Committee" means the Interdepartmental Advisory Committee established by section 7.

(3) "Council" means Council of the District of Columbia.

(4) "Mayor" means the Mayor of the District of Columbia.

Columbia.

Sec. 3. (a) There is established a District of Columbia Residential, Commercial, and Institutional Structure Fire Protection Commission to advise the Council

New, D.C. Code, sec. 2-3102 (1985 supp.)

New, D.C. Code, sec. 2-3101 Note, D.C. Code, secs. 4-301, 5-503 (1985 supp.)

CODIFICATION New chapter 31 of title 2

by investigating and reporting on the feasibility of low-cost residential, commercial, and institutional sprinklers as a means of protecting the public from uncontrolled fires in residential, commercial, and institutional structures and by recommending to the Council comprehensive legislation to establish a residential, commercial, and institutional fire sprinkler program appropriate for the District of Columbia.

(b)(1) The Commission shall consist of 15 members.

(2) The members of the Commission shall be

residents of the District of Columbia and shall be appointed in the following manner:

(A) one member shall be appointed by each

member of the Council;

(B) one member shall be appointed by the

Mayor; and

(C) The chairperson of the Council's

Committee on the Judiciary shall serve as an additional

member and as chairperson of the Commission.

(3) The members of the Commission may elect from

among its members other officers considered necessary.

(c) The term of the members shall be 1 year from the

1st meeting of the Commission.

(d) A majority of the members of the Commission shall

constitute a quorum. A quorum of the members shall be

necessary for the Commission to conduct its business.

(e) The appointment of a member shall terminate if the

member becomes a resident of a jurisdiction other than the

(f) Vacancies in the Commission shall be filled in the

same manner as the original appointment.

(g) Members of the Commission shall serve without

compensation but shall be reimbursed for all reasonable

expenses associated with their service.

(h) The Commission shall meet at least once a month and

shall determine the time and place of its meetings. The

Council may convene meetings of the Commission at any time.

Meetings of the Commission are open to the public consistent

with section 742 of the District of Columbia Self-Government

and Governmental Reorganization Act, approved December 24,

1973 (87 Stat. 831; D.C. Code, sec. 1-1504).

(i) The Commission shall annually receive funds

according to the appropriations process. These funds may be

applied to the costs associated with community hearings, the

development of studies and other forms of community

interface, and for the hiring of staff.

(j) The Commission shall cease to exist 30 days after

submitting the comprehensive report referred to in section

4(p).

Sec. 4. (a) The Commission shall investigate the

issues that affect the safety of the residents of the

District of Columbia and recommend legislative schemes for

eliminating the hazards of fires.

(b) The Commission shall:

(1) identify the population groups that are at

higher than average risk of death or injury due to

New,
D.C. Code,
sec. 2-3103
(1985 supp.)

(2) identify the neighborhoods where the residents suffer higher than average risk of death or injury due to fires;

(3) identify the categories of residential buildings in which the incidence of fire occurs at a rate higher than in other residential buildings;

(4) identify the causes of these fires; and
(5) identify categories of buildings that should be required to install sprinkler systems.

(c) The Commission examine the appropriateness of the use-group classifications set forth in the Second Amendment to the Building Code for the District of Columbia, effective September 21, 1977 (D.C. Law 2-18; 12 DCMR).

(d) The Commission shall study the feasibility of installing the following configurations of sprinklers:

- (1) hallway and stairwell sprinklers with the extension of a single head into each adjacent room;
- (2) sprinklers throughout the building; or
- (3) other configurations as may appear feasible to the Commission.

(e) Based on the District of Columbia's fire experience since 1978, the Commission shall make a finding of the percentage of deaths, injuries, and serious fires that would likely be prevented by each configuration of sprinklers.
(f) The Commission shall make a determination of the long-term monetary savings to the District of Columbia government which is likely to result by installing the

sprinkler systems that the Commission recommends.

(g) The Commission shall ascertain the advantages and

disadvantages of sprinkler systems fashioned from copper,

polyvinyl chloride, and polybutylene.

(h) The Commission shall determine if the water system

in high-risk residential neighborhoods of the District of

Columbia is adequate to supply a residential sprinkler

system directly as well as identify the percentage of homes

in high-risk neighborhoods with an adequate system to supply

water directly to a residential sprinkler system.

(i) The Commission shall:

(1) identify low-cost alternatives to supplying a

residential sprinkler system directly;

(2) identify funding mechanisms for large-scale

installation of residential and institutional sprinkler

systems;

(3) identify specific funding mechanisms for

high-risk, low income neighborhoods and cost-containment

methods for installation of the residential sprinklers; and

(4) identify economic disincentives to the

installation of residential sprinklers.

(j) Identify what changes would have to be made in the

local statutes and regulations to allow residential,

commercial, and institutional applications of the systems

that the Commission recommends.

(k) The Commission shall identify existing programs for

youth employment, adult employment, and job training with

which a program of large-scale sprinkler installation might

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the District of Columbia.

(1) The Commission shall determine whether the

appropriate District of Columbia government agencies have
the power and capacity to carry out necessary inspections
and to enforce sprinkler requirements that the Commission
may recommend.

(m) The Commission shall investigate other matters
appropriate for completing the comprehensive report on the
feasibility of residential, commercial, and institutional
sprinklers in the District of Columbia.

(n) The Commission shall identify and use the services
of all concerned District of Columbia residents, businesses,
government agencies, and private agencies with expertise and
interest in fire protection.

(o) The Commission shall conduct community hearings to
receive information related to its mission.

(p) The Commission shall submit to the Council, 1 year
after the 1st meeting of the Commission, a comprehensive
report setting forth its findings and recommendations.

Sec. 5. Any job training programs chosen to be
combined with a sprinkler installation program shall perform
their job training activities within the District of

Columbia.

Sec. 6. The Mayor shall provide sufficient space for

the Commission to operate and may detail personnel to assist

the Commission in its work. The Mayor shall also direct all

agencies contacted by the Commission to give their full

New, D.C. Cod
sec. 2-3105
(1985 supp.)

New,
D.C. Code,
sec. 2-3104
(1985 supp.)

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Sec. 7. The Commission may receive donations and

grants, either in money or in kind, intended to promote the

work of the Commission and shall hold all donations and

grants in trust for the designated purpose.

Sec. 8. (a)(1) There is established an

interdepartmental Advisory Committee to assist the

Commission in its work.

(2) The Committee shall consist of representatives

of the following agencies:

(A) The Fire Department of the District of

Columbia;

(B) the Corporation Counsel of the District

of Columbia;

(C) the Department of Housing and Community

Development;

(D) the Department of Employment Services;

(E) the District of Columbia Department of

Finance and Revenue; and

(F) the Department of Public Works.

(b) The chairperson of the Commission shall be an ex

officio member and chairperson of the Committee. The

Committee, or particular segments of the Committee, shall

convene when the chairperson considers necessary and

appropriate, but not less than once quarterly. The meeting

place of the Committee shall change periodically so that

meetings are held at least once in each ward of the city

during the existence of the Committee. Meetings of the

New, D.C. Code, sec. 2-3107 (1985 supp.)

New, D.C. Code, sec. 2-3106 (1985 supp.)