

AN ACT

relating to building energy efficiency performance standards.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 388.003, Health and Safety Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a), (b), (b-2), (b-3), (d), and (i) and adding Subsections (j) and (k) to read as follows:

(a) To achieve energy conservation in single-family residential construction, the energy efficiency chapter of the International Residential Code, as it existed on May 1, 2001, is adopted as the energy code in this state for single-family residential construction. On September 1, 2016, the energy efficiency chapter of the International Residential Code, as it existed on May 1, 2015, is adopted as the energy code in this state for single-family residential construction. On or after September 1, 2021, the State Energy Conservation Office may adopt and substitute for that energy code the latest published edition of the energy efficiency chapter of the International Residential Code, based on written findings on the stringency of the chapter submitted by the laboratory under Subsection (b-3). The office:

(1) may not adopt an edition under this subsection more often than once every six years; and

(2) by rule shall establish an effective date for an adopted edition that is not earlier than nine months after the date of adoption.

1 (b) To achieve energy conservation in all other  
2 residential, commercial, and industrial construction, the  
3 International Energy Conservation Code as it existed on May 1,  
4 2001, is adopted as the energy code for use in this state for all  
5 other residential, commercial, and industrial construction. The  
6 State Energy Conservation Office may adopt and substitute for that  
7 energy code the latest published edition of the International  
8 Energy Conservation Code, based on written findings on the  
9 stringency of the edition submitted by the laboratory under  
10 Subsection (b-3). The office by rule shall establish an effective  
11 date for an adopted edition that is not earlier than nine months  
12 after the date of adoption.

13 (b-2) The State Energy Conservation Office by rule shall  
14 establish a procedure for persons who have an interest in the  
15 adoption of energy codes under Subsection (a) or (b) [~~(b-1)~~] to have  
16 an opportunity to comment on the codes under consideration. The  
17 office shall consider persons who have an interest in adoption of  
18 those codes to include:

19 (1) commercial and residential builders, architects,  
20 and engineers;

21 (2) municipal, county, and other local government  
22 authorities; [~~and~~]

23 (3) environmental groups; and

24 (4) manufacturers of building materials and products.

25 (b-3) The [~~In developing written recommendations under~~  
26 ~~Subsection (b-1), the~~] laboratory shall:

27 (1) submit to the State Energy Conservation Office

1 written findings on the stringency of the latest published edition  
2 of the International Residential Code energy efficiency provisions  
3 only if the date of the edition allows the office to adopt the  
4 edition under Subsection (a)(1);

5 (2) submit to the State Energy Conservation Office  
6 written findings on the stringency of the latest published edition  
7 of the International Energy Conservation Code not later than six  
8 months after publication of a new edition; and

9 (3) in developing the findings, consider the comments  
10 submitted under Subsection (b-2).

11 (d) A municipality [~~or county~~] may establish procedures to  
12 adopt local amendments to the International Energy Conservation  
13 Code and the energy efficiency chapter of the International  
14 Residential Code. Notwithstanding the requirements of Subsection  
15 (e), a municipality located in an area defined by Section  
16 388.002(11) or in an affected county may establish procedures to  
17 adopt local amendments to the Energy Rating Index Compliance  
18 Alternative or subsequent alternative compliance path as described  
19 by Subsection (j).

20 (i) A building certified by a national, state, or local  
21 accredited energy efficiency program and determined by the  
22 laboratory to be in compliance with the energy efficiency  
23 requirements of this section may, at the option of the  
24 municipality, be considered in compliance. The United States  
25 Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star Program  
26 certification of energy code equivalency shall be considered in  
27 compliance. The Energy Rating Index Compliance Alternative or

1 subsequent alternative compliance path as described by Subsection  
2 (j) shall be considered in compliance.

3 (j) For the purposes of this chapter, the Energy Rating  
4 Index Compliance Alternative or subsequent alternative compliance  
5 path used to measure compliance for single-family residential  
6 construction in an optional compliance path of the energy  
7 efficiency chapter of the International Residential Code that uses  
8 an energy rating index is as follows:

9 (1) for climate zone 2, an energy rating index of:

10 (A) 65 or lower from September 1, 2016, to August  
11 31, 2019;

12 (B) 63 or lower from September 1, 2019, to August  
13 31, 2022; and

14 (C) 59 or lower on or after September 1, 2022;

15 (2) for climate zone 3, an energy rating index of:

16 (A) 65 or lower from September 1, 2016, to August  
17 31, 2019;

18 (B) 63 or lower from September 1, 2019, to August  
19 31, 2022; and

20 (C) 59 or lower on or after September 1, 2022; and

21 (3) for climate zone 4, an energy rating index of:

22 (A) 69 or lower from September 1, 2016, to August  
23 31, 2019;

24 (B) 67 or lower from September 1, 2019, to August  
25 31, 2022; and

26 (C) 63 or lower on or after September 1, 2022.

27 (k) This subsection and Subsection (j) expire September 1,

1 2025.

2 SECTION 2. The following provisions of the Health and  
3 Safety Code are repealed:

4 (1) Section 388.003(b-1), as added by Chapter 262  
5 (S.B. 12), Acts of the 80th Legislature, Regular Session, 2007; and

6 (2) Section 388.003(b-1), as added by Chapter 939  
7 (H.B. 3693), Acts of the 80th Legislature, Regular Session, 2007.

8 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
9 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
10 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
11 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
12 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1736 was passed by the House on April 30, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 123, Nays 16, 1 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 1736 on May 22, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 111, Nays 18, 3 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1736 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 20, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 29, Nays 1.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor