

Guiding Principles

The Massachusetts Federation of Building Officials subscribe to the following guiding principles

1. We endorse the adoption of the model building codes with the minimum number of amendments. Amendments to the model codes should be limited to those that meet one or more of the following:
 - a. Align our codes with requirements governed by state statutes.
 - b. Delete, modify or address model code issues that regulated by specialty codes.
 - c. Reduce construction costs without lessening the safety of the built environment.
 - d. Address a unique Massachusetts condition that warrants it.
 - e. If there is a valid life safety statistics that justify the amendment and there is increased initial construction costs and/or increased life cycle costs then the amendment may be considered.
2. We may take positions on proposed legislation that effect the way building officials do their jobs, or effect the codes and regulations under our jurisdiction.
3. We oppose any legislation that writes, amends, or establishes code requirements that should be enacted through the process of MGL c. 143 §§ 95 & 97.

§ 95 General Objectives;

b) Adoption of modern technical methods, devices and improvements which may reduce the cost of construction and maintenance over the life of the building without affecting the health, safety and security of the occupants or users of buildings.

(c) Elimination of restrictive, obsolete, conflicting and unnecessary building regulations and requirements which may increase the cost of construction and maintenance over the life of the building or retard unnecessarily the use of new materials, or which may provide unwarranted preferential treatment of types of classes of materials, products or methods of construction without affecting the health, safety, and security of the occupants or users of buildings.

§ 97 Amendments to the state building code; Except for the specialized codes, as defined in section ninety-six, which codes shall be amended only by the respective boards, commissions, departments or agencies authorized to do so by law, any person may propose amendments to the state building code. Public hearings shall be held in the city of Boston in May and November of each year, and at such other times and places as the board may determine, to consider petitions for such amendments.

4. We oppose any legislation that writes, amends, or establishes licensing requirements that should be enacted through the process of MGL c. 143 §§ 95, 97 & 94 (i){CSL}

MGL c. 143 § 94

(i) To issue licenses to individuals engaged as construction supervisors. Fees for such licenses shall be collected and retained by the commonwealth.

(m) To develop requirements and approve courses of instruction to be offered by others relative to the continuing education of individuals licensed as construction supervisors.

(n) To establish a continuing education advisory council to assist and make recommendations to the board relative to the formulation, promulgation and administration of requirements for the continuing education of individuals licensed as construction supervisors. The council shall consist of: the commissioner of public safety, or his designee; 2 licensed construction supervisors who shall also be members of the Home Builders Association of Massachusetts; 1 licensed construction supervisor who shall also be a member of the eastern Massachusetts chapter of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry; and 3 members to be appointed by the commissioner, 2 of whom shall be certified building inspectors and 1 of whom shall be an instructor in residential construction technology at a public or private college or university. The commissioner shall be chairperson of the council which shall meet regularly and may establish its own rules for the conduct of its business. The members of the council shall not be compensated for their services but shall be reimbursed for travel and other expenses necessary for the performance of their duties. The board may provide technical and clerical assistance to the council.

MGL c. 143 Section 96. The state building code shall incorporate any specialized construction codes, rules or regulations pertaining to building construction, reconstruction, alteration, repair or demolition promulgated by and under the authority of the various boards which have been authorized from time to time by the general court.

For the purposes of this section, “specialized codes” shall include, but not be limited to, the state plumbing code, electrical code, architectural barriers regulations, fire safety code, fire prevention regulations, sheet metal regulations and elevator regulations.

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