



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2005 Assembly Bill 544

**Assembly
Amendment 2**

Memo published: January 18, 2006

Contact: Mary Matthias, Senior Staff Attorney (266-0932)

Current Law

Under current law, all University of Wisconsin (UW) System residence halls and dormitories over 60 feet tall that were constructed before April 26, 2000, must be retrofitted with an automatic fire sprinkler system on each floor before January 1, 2006. (An exception to this requirement is Ogg Residence Hall at UW-Madison, which does not have to be retrofitted until January 1, 2008.)

Also under current law, all UW System residence halls and dormitories that are constructed on or after April 26, 2000, must be built with an automatic fire sprinkler system on each floor, regardless of the height of the building.

This bill extends automatic fire sprinkler requirements to all of the following:

1. All student residential facilities that are operated by fraternities, sororities, or other organizations authorized or sponsored by an institution of higher education.
2. Residence halls and dormitories that are owned or operated by other institutions of higher education.
3. "Private student residential buildings." Under the bill, a "private student residential building" is defined as a "privately owned and operated residential building" that:
 - Has a capacity of at least 100 occupants;
 - Is occupied by persons at least 80% of whom are enrolled in an institution of higher education; and

- Has attributes usually associated with a student residence hall or dormitory such as a food service plan or occupancy by a resident advisor.

Under the bill, all buildings described under item 1., above, that were constructed before the bill becomes law must be retrofitted with an automatic fire sprinkler system on each floor within five years after the effective date of the bill, regardless of the height of the building.

Under the bill, the buildings described under items 2. and 3., above, that are over 60 feet tall and that were constructed before the bill becomes law must be retrofitted with an automatic fire sprinkler system on each floor within five years after the effective date of the bill.

Buildings of the type described under items 1. to 3., above, that are constructed on or after the effective date of the bill must be built with an automatic fire sprinkler system on each floor, regardless of the height of the building.

Assembly Amendment 2

Assembly Amendment 2 changes the effective date of the provision that requires retrofitting of already-existing buildings from five years after the effective date of the bill to January 1, 2014 (approximately eight years after the expected effective date of the bill).

Legislative History

On October 4, 2005, Assembly Amendment 2 was offered by Representative Kreibich, and recommended for adoption by the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities on a vote of Ayes, 6; Noes, 4. The committee recommended passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 9; Noes, 1.

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