



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2017 Wisconsin Act 240
[2017 Senate Bill 394]

**Uniform Dwelling Code Council
and Religious Exemptions From
Certain Building Code Standards**

2017 Wisconsin Act 240 modifies prior law relating to oversight of building inspectors and to a religious exemption from Uniform Dwelling Code standards. First, the Act eliminates the Building Inspector Review Board and the Contractor Certification Council, and transfers their duties to the Uniform Dwelling Code Council. Under prior law, the Building Inspector Review Board reviewed complaints regarding building inspectors, and the Contractor Certification Council made recommendations to the Department of Safety and Professional Services regarding rules for certifying the financial responsibility of contractors who obtain building permits for one- and two-family dwellings.

Second, the Act authorizes the Uniform Dwelling Code Council, when reviewing a complaint concerning possible incompetent, negligent, or unethical conduct by a building inspector, to recommend **suspension** of the inspector's certification, as an alternative to revocation of such a certification under prior law.

Finally, the Act modifies a religious exemption applicable to certain Uniform Dwelling Code standards. **Prior law** authorized a person to apply for a waiver from certain standards applicable to one- and two-family dwellings, including certain plumbing and electrical wiring standards, based on the person's religious beliefs. **The Act** narrows the scope of such waivers to standards that apply **inside** one- and two-family dwellings.

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.