



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

**2005 Wisconsin Act 78**  
[2005 Assembly Bill 544]

**Fire Sprinklers in Student  
Residential Facilities**

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, 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.

*2005 Wisconsin Act 78* 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." 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.

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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.state.wi.us/>.

The Act requires all buildings described under item 1., above, that were constructed before January 7, 2006, to be retrofitted with an automatic fire sprinkler system on each floor by January 1, 2014, regardless of the height of the building.

The Act requires all buildings described under items 2. and 3., above, that are over 60 feet tall and that were constructed before January 7, 2006 to be retrofitted with an automatic fire sprinkler system on each floor by January 1, 2014.

All buildings of the type described under items 1. to 3., above, that are constructed on or after January 7, 2006 must be built with an automatic fire sprinkler system on each floor, regardless of the height of the building.

***Effective Date:*** The Act takes effect on January 7, 2006.

***Prepared by:*** Mary Matthias, Senior Staff Attorney and  
David L. Lovell, Senior Analyst

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