

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB195

House of Origin	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron: VanValkenburg

3. Committee: Passed the Senate.

4. Title: Board of Housing and Community Development; stakeholder advisory group; report.

5. Summary: Directs the Board of Housing and Community Development (the Board) to convene a stakeholder advisory group including firefighting professionals to evaluate and recommend revisions to the Uniform Statewide Building Code to permit Group R-2 occupancies to be served by a single exit, provided that the building has not more than six stories above grade plane. The bill requires the stakeholder advisory group to submit its findings and recommendations to the Board and to the Chairmen of the House Committee on General Laws and the Senate Committee on General Laws and Technology no later than December 1, 2024.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No. See item 8.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary. See item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: It is anticipated that any fiscal impact on the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) as a result of this bill in isolation can be absorbed within existing resources.

However, three bills involving the facilitation of a variety of building code workgroups and stakeholder meetings are currently in consideration. Cumulatively, the impact of these tasks may not be absorbable to the agency. Based on experience with similar work, DHCD has estimated the cost of work resulting from this bill at \$10,500, which can be absorbed within existing general fund appropriation in the agency's Regulation of Structure Safety program. With the exception of fiscal year 2023, DHCD has historically had negligible unspent general fund balances in this program.

SB195, HB1270, and HB1092 have similar estimated costs, for a cumulative estimated total of \$31,500 in fiscal year 2025. Any funding provided in relation to stakeholder group facilitation can be allocated to Item 105 in HB30/SB30 as introduced.

Any impact to the Department of Fire Programs, which houses the State Fire Marshal's Office, is anticipated to be absorbable within the agency's resources.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Housing and Community Development; Department of Fire Programs.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.