

LD 2257
An Act to Establish a Uniform Building and Energy Code
Benefits and Incentives for Municipalities

LD 2257 recognizes the difficulties towns might face in administering and paying for code enforcement. A number of measures have been built into the bill to address this concern:

No Mandatory enforcement in towns with less than 2000 people—exempts 330 towns.

State funded training for municipal inspectors in building and energy codes is provided.

Uniform codes save towns time and expense of adopting and amending codes themselves (about \$3500 each time). The Code Board will handle the hard work of reconciling any code conflicts.

Code enforcement is phased-in, allowing six months lead time for towns that previously had a building code and two years for towns that do not.

For larger towns, uniform codes removes the “handicap” of having and enforcing codes, compared to small towns. For smaller towns, it means access to codes and training that was previously beyond reach.

Towns may choose from a number of options to enforce the state code: They may:

- Employ a code official or officials
- Share a code official with another town through an inter-local agreement
- Contract for code enforcement services through a regional agency
- Contract with certified providers for plan review and inspection services
- In towns without an enforcement program, homeowners or builders can contract with a certified inspector themselves and submit a certificate to the town

Technical assistance is provided: State staff will be available to answer code questions from municipalities during regular business hours.

Towns may charge building permit fees to cover the cost of code enforcement. The International Code Council provides formulas for setting local fees.