

Sectional Analysis for HB 262

Building Safety Account

An Act relating to accounting for and appropriations of receipts from fees collected by the Department of Labor and Workforce Development for certain inspections and for certain plumbing and electrical worker certificates of fitness; establishing a building safety account; and providing for an effective date.

Released: March 6, 2002

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House Bill 262 is a fees-for-service measure establishing a building safety account to allow the Department of Labor to collect fees to support its mechanical inspections program and eventually to eliminate the sizeable backlog of elevator and boiler inspections.

In the mid-1990s there were five electrical inspectors, two elevator inspectors, and five boiler/pressure vessel inspectors to inspect the state's boilers and elevators. Currently there are two electrical inspectors, one elevator inspector, and three boiler/pressure inspectors. While the number of inspectors has decreased, the number of boilers has increased to 44,000, and with the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the number of elevators has nearly doubled to 900. With that, the backlog of boilers has increased to 6,100 and 300 for elevator inspections.

Passage of House Bill 262 will provide the mechanism for the mechanical inspections program to generate enough funds to not only become self sufficient, but to restore three new inspectors to the program, and to eliminate the sizeable backlog of inspections in approximately two years.