

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 8, 2008
AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 14, 2008

SENATE BILL

No. 1508

Introduced by Senator Corbett

February 21, 2008

An act to add Section 7065.07 to the Business and Professions Code, and to add Section 8898 to the Government Code, relating to seismic safety standards, ~~and making an appropriation therefor.~~

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1508, as amended, Corbett. Seismic safety standards: ~~cripple walls.~~ *strengthening standards.*

Existing law requires the State Architect, in consultation with designated entities, to develop seismic retrofit guidelines and standards for buildings, as specified, with concrete or reinforced masonry column or wall construction. Under existing law, ~~the California Earthquake Authority is required to establish an Earthquake Loss Mitigation Fund to provide funding for homeowners to retrofit their residences to protect against earthquake damage~~ *any building standard adopted or proposed by a state agency is required to be submitted to, and adopted or approved by, the California Building Standards Commission prior to publication in the California Building Standards Code.*

This bill would require the Department of Housing and Community Development, in consultation with designated entities, to develop guidelines and standards prior to January 1, 2010, ~~the~~ *for seismic retrofit strengthening of cripple walls of and sill plate anchorage for light, wood frame residential buildings, as defined, and to submit the standards to, prior to July 1, 2010, to the International Code Council for consideration and adoption into the model codes. The bill would also*

require the department, prior to January 1, 2012, to submit the standards for approval by the California Building Standards Commission. The bill would require the commission to adopt, approve, codify, and publish the guidelines and standards in the California Building Standards Code prior to July 1, 2011, and to submit them to the International Code Council on or prior to August 1, 2011. The bill would require the department to publish a commentary explaining the seismic retrofit strengthening guidelines and standards and their use prior to their effective date. The bill would require that the license examinations for a general contractor's license and a carpentry and framing license ensure that a licensee applicant has sufficient knowledge to perform the seismic retrofit strengthening of cripple walls. The bill would appropriate an unspecified amount from the Earthquake Loss Mitigation Fund to the department for the purposes of developing the seismic retrofit guidelines and standards make its provisions contingent on funding from sources other than the General Fund.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: ~~yes~~-no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 7065.07 is added to the Business and
 2 Professions Code, to read:
 3 7065.07. The qualifying examinations for both a general
 4 contractor's license and a carpentry and framing license shall
 5 ensure that an applicant has sufficient knowledge, including
 6 knowledge of the guidelines and standards adopted pursuant to
 7 Section 8898 of the Government Code, to perform the seismic
 8 retrofit strengthening of cripple walls.
 9 SEC. 2. Section 8898 is added to the Government Code, to
 10 read:
 11 8898. (a) The Department of Housing and Community
 12 Development shall develop guidelines and standards, prior to
 13 January 1, 2010, for the seismic retrofit of cripple walls of
 14 residential buildings of wood frame construction strengthening of
 15 cripple walls and sill plate anchorage of light, wood frame
 16 residential buildings. The department shall develop these guidelines
 17 and standards in consultation with the Division of the State
 18 Architect, the California Building Standards Commission, the
 19 Contractors' State License Board, the California Council of the

1 American Institute of Architects, the California Building Officials,
2 ~~the International Code Council~~, the Structural Engineers
3 Association of California, the Seismic Safety Commission, the
4 Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, the League of
5 California Cities, the Association of Bay Area Governments, and
6 other organizations that have previously worked on committees
7 to develop similar ~~retrofit~~ *strengthening* provisions.

8 (b) ~~The sum of _____ dollars (\$_____) is hereby appropriated~~
9 ~~from the Earthquake Loss Mitigation Fund to the Department of~~
10 ~~Housing and Community Development to complete the duties~~
11 ~~described in this section. The department may expend the money~~
12 ~~appropriated to it for the costs of retaining professionals in the~~
13 ~~engineering field to develop the guidelines and standards, as well~~
14 ~~as for travel and other necessary expenses for committee members~~
15 ~~developing and reviewing those guidelines and standards, and may~~
16 ~~retain 10 percent of the funds appropriated to it for administrative~~
17 ~~expenses relating to its duties under this section.~~

18 (e)

19 (b) ~~Prior to January July 1, 2010, the Department of Housing~~
20 ~~and Community Development shall submit the seismic retrofit~~
21 ~~standards to the California Building Standards Commission. The~~
22 ~~department shall also make the standards available to other~~
23 ~~interested parties upon their request.~~

24 (d) ~~Prior to July 1, 2011, the California Building Standards~~
25 ~~Commission shall adopt, approve, codify, and publish by reference~~
26 ~~in the California Building Standards Code guidelines and standards~~
27 ~~for the seismic retrofit for cripple walls of residential buildings of~~
28 ~~wood frame construction.~~

29 (e) ~~Prior to August 1, 2011, the California Building Standards~~
30 ~~Commission shall submit the seismic retrofit guidelines and~~
31 ~~standards to the International Code Council for consideration and~~
32 ~~adoption into model codes, as defined in Section 18916 of the~~
33 ~~Health and Safety Code. *strengthening standards to the*~~
34 ~~*International Code Council for consideration and adoption into*~~
35 ~~*the model codes, as defined in Section 18916 of the Health and*~~
36 ~~*Safety Code, and, prior to January 1, 2012, the Department of*~~
37 ~~*Housing and Community Development shall submit the seismic*~~
38 ~~*strengthening standards to the California Building Standards*~~
39 ~~*Commission for approval pursuant to Section 18930 of the Health*~~
40 ~~*and Safety Code.*~~

1 ~~(f)~~

2 (c) Prior to the effective date of the seismic ~~retrofit~~ *strengthening*
3 guidelines and standards adopted pursuant to this section, the
4 Department of Housing and Community Development shall publish
5 a commentary explaining the seismic ~~retrofit~~ *strengthening*
6 guidelines and standards and their use.

7 ~~(g)~~

8 (d) The following definitions apply for purposes of this section:

9 (1) “In consultation with” means the meaningful and open
10 solicitation of suggestions, ideas, and comments, and the response
11 to these suggestions, ideas, and comments, and the opportunity to
12 participate in meetings by the organizations named in this section.
13 Consultation shall include consideration of what constitutes seismic
14 deficiencies and the appropriate measures to correct the
15 deficiencies.

16 ~~(2) “Seismic retrofit for cripple walls of residential buildings~~
17 ~~of wood frame construction”~~

18 (2) “*Seismic strengthening of cripple walls and sill plate*
19 *anchorage of light, wood frame residential buildings*” means
20 retrofitting or reconstruction of an existing building ~~or structure~~
21 to significantly reduce structural collapse due to inadequate
22 connections between the wood frame building ~~or structure~~ and the
23 foundation, inadequately braced cripple walls, and lack of
24 connections between these cripple walls and the first floor of the
25 building ~~or structure~~.

26 (e) *This section shall be implemented to the extent that funds*
27 *are available to the Department of Housing and Community*
28 *Development for the purposes of this section from any source other*
29 *than the General Fund, including, but not limited to, federal*
30 *funding, funding made available by the California Earthquake*
31 *Authority, and private donations. Any funds made available by the*
32 *California Earthquake Authority for purposes of this section shall*
33 *be expended solely for activities that directly further the*
34 *development of seismic strengthening standards, consistent with*
35 *the public mitigation goals of the California Earthquake Authority,*
36 *as defined by its governing board, and shall not be expended for*
37 *administrative costs or overhead expenses of the Department of*

- 1 *Housing and Community Development, or by any other department*
- 2 *or agency of the state, or by a private entity.*

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