

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 7, 2010  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 17, 2010  
AMENDED IN SENATE JANUARY 21, 2010  
AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 28, 2009  
AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 6, 2009  
AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 22, 2009  
AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 13, 2009

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 518**

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**Introduced by Senator Lowenthal**

February 26, 2009

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An act to add Section 18941.8 to the Health and Safety Code, and to amend Section 14877.1 of the Water Code, relating to building standards.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 518, as amended, Lowenthal. Building standards: graywater.

The California Building Standards Law provides for the adoption of building standards by state agencies by requiring all state agencies that adopt or propose adoption of any building standard to submit the building standard to the California Building Standards Commission for approval and adoption.

Existing law requires the Department of Housing and Community Development to propose the adoption, amendment, or repeal of building standards to the commission relating to hotels, motels, lodging houses, apartment houses, and dwellings, and the buildings and structures accessory thereto, except as specified. Existing law requires the

Department of Housing and Community Development, at the next triennial building standards rulemaking cycle that commences on or after January 1, 2009, to adopt and submit to the commission for approval building standards for the construction, installation, and alteration of graywater, as defined, systems for indoor and outdoor uses.

Existing law requires the Department of Water Resources to adopt standards for the installation of graywater systems. Existing law terminates the authority of the Department of Water Resources to adopt graywater standards for residential buildings upon the approval by the commission of the standards submitted by the Department of Housing and Community Development.

This bill would require the commission, as a part of the next triennial edition of the California Building Standards Code adopted after January 1, 2011, to adopt building standards for the construction, installation, and alteration of graywater systems for indoor and outdoor uses in nonresidential occupancies, in accordance with prescribed requirements. The bill would terminate the authority of the Department of Water Resources to adopt standards for graywater systems in nonresidential occupancies upon adoption of the standards by the commission.

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

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

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 18941.8 is added to the Health and Safety  
2 Code, to read:  
3 18941.8. (a) As used in this section, “graywater” has the same  
4 meaning as defined in Section 17922.12.  
5 (b) Notwithstanding Chapter 22 (commencing with Section  
6 14875) of Division 7 of the Water Code, as a part of the next  
7 triennial edition of the California Building Standards Code (Title  
8 24 of the California Code of Regulations) adopted after January  
9 1, 2011, the commission shall adopt building standards for the  
10 construction, installation, and alteration of graywater systems for  
11 indoor and outdoor uses in nonresidential occupancies.  
12 (c) In adopting building standards under this section, the  
13 commission shall do all of the following:  
14 (1) Ensure protection of water quality in accordance with  
15 applicable provisions of state and federal water quality law.

1 (2) Consider the adopted building standards for the construction,  
2 installation, and alteration of graywater systems for indoor and  
3 outdoor uses in residential buildings.

4 (3) Consider existing research available on the environmental  
5 consequences to soil and groundwater of short-term and long-term  
6 graywater use for irrigation purposes, ~~including, but not limited~~  
7 ~~to, research sponsored by the Water Environment Research~~  
8 ~~Foundation.~~

9 (4) Consider graywater use impacts on human health.

10 (5) Consider the circumstances under which the use of graywater  
11 treatment systems in nonresidential occupancies is recommended.

12 (6) Consider the use and regulation of graywater in other  
13 jurisdictions within the United States and in other nations,  
14 *including, but not limited to, New South Wales, Australia.*

15 (7) *Consider the water quality and technology accreditation*  
16 *standards being developed by the National Sanitation Foundation*  
17 *(NSF International) Standard 350 Task Group on Onsite*  
18 *Residential and Commercial Graywater Treatment Systems.*

19 (8) *Use Chapter 16 of the Uniform Plumbing Code, adopted by*  
20 *the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical*  
21 *Officials, as the starting point for the building standards and*  
22 *amend those standards as necessary.*

23 (d) The commission may revise and update the standards  
24 adopted under this section at any time.

25 (e) The commission's adoption of building standards for  
26 graywater systems pursuant to this section shall terminate the  
27 authority of the Department of Water Resources to adopt and  
28 update standards for the installation, construction, and alteration  
29 of graywater systems in nonresidential buildings pursuant to  
30 Chapter 22 (commencing with Section 14875) of Division 7 of the  
31 Water Code.

32 SEC. 2. Section 14877.1 of the Water Code is amended to read:

33 14877.1. (a) The department, in consultation with the State  
34 Department of Public Health and the Center for Irrigation  
35 Technology at California State University, Fresno, shall adopt  
36 standards for the installation of graywater systems. In adopting  
37 these standards, the department shall consider, among other  
38 resources, "Appendix J," as adopted on September 29, 1992, by  
39 the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical  
40 Officials, the graywater standard proposed for the latest edition of

1 the Uniform Plumbing Code of the International Association of  
2 Plumbing and Mechanical Officials, the City of Los Angeles  
3 Graywater Pilot Project Final Report issued in November 1992,  
4 and the advice of the Center for Irrigation Technology at California  
5 State University, Fresno, on the installation depth for subsurface  
6 drip irrigation systems.

7 (b) The department shall include among the approved methods  
8 of subsurface irrigation, but the approved methods shall not be  
9 limited to, drip systems.

10 (c) The department shall revise its graywater systems standards  
11 as needed.

12 (d) (1) The authority of the department under this chapter to  
13 adopt standards for residential buildings shall terminate upon the  
14 approval by the California Building Standards Commission of the  
15 standards submitted to that commission pursuant to Section  
16 17922.12 of the Health and Safety Code.

17 (2) The authority of the department under this chapter to adopt  
18 standards for nonresidential occupancies shall terminate upon the  
19 adoption of standards by the California Building Standards  
20 Commission pursuant to Section 18941.8 of the Health and Safety  
21 Code.