

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 05/29/15

Action: Do Pass As Amended And Be Printed Engrossed.

Meeting Dates: 05/20, 05/29

Vote:

Yeas: 9 - Buehler, Clem, Greenlick, Hayden, Kennemer, Keny-Guyer, Lively, Nosse, Weidner

Prepared By: Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) to adopt rules requiring accredited inspector to perform asbestos survey for purpose of determining whether a residence or residential building is insulated with asbestos prior to demolition of the residence or residential building. Directs the EQC to include an exemption for residences constructed by a date specified by the commission.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Established health hazards of asbestos exposure
- Demolition of older homes in Portland
- Health impacts to neighbors
- Process for remodeling older homes
- Impact to newer buildings and homes
- Proposed amendments

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Deletes the requirement that a contractor survey the premises, and directs the EQC to adopt rules to have an accredited inspector conduct the survey. Directs the EQC to include an exemption for residences constructed by a date specified by the commission.

BACKGROUND:

Asbestos is the name for naturally occurring fibrous minerals that are highly durable and heat resistant. Due to its properties, asbestos is often used in construction materials such as roofing shingles and cement siding. No amount of contact with asbestos is safe and exposure increases risk of developing lung cancer, asbestosis (disease of lungs), and mesothelioma.

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regulates demolition of public and private buildings to ensure that before any facility is demolished, all asbestos is properly abated by certified personnel through inspection and safe removal. Such regulations are not in place for the demolition of residential properties. Homes built prior to 1990 have a high potential of containing asbestos materials and when demolitions occur, this can pose public health risks to neighbors.