CHAPTER 37
[House Bill No. 1344]
UNIFORM FIRE CODE ADMINISTRATION
AND ENFORCEMENT

AN ACT Relating to fire protection; adding new sections to chapter 19.27 RCW; and declaring an emergency.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. There is added to chapter 19.27 RCW a new section to read as follows:

Each county government shall administer and enforce the uniform fire code in the unincorporated areas of the county: PROVIDED, That any political subdivision or municipal corporation providing fire protection pursuant to RCW 14.08-.120 shall, at its sole option, be responsible for administration and enforcement of the uniform fire code on its facility. Any fire protection district or political subdivision may, pursuant to chapter 39.34 RCW, the interlocal cooperation act, assume all or a portion of the administering responsibility and coordinate and cooperate with the county government in the enforcement of the uniform fire code.

It is not the intent of this 1976 act to preclude or limit the authority of any city, town, county, fire protection district, state agency, or political subdivision from engaging in those fire prevention activities with which they are charged.

It is not the intent of the legislature by adopting the state building code or this 1976 act to grant counties any more power to suppress or extinguish fires than counties currently possess under the Constitution or other statutes.

Each county is authorized to impose fees sufficient to pay the cost of inspections, administration, and enforcement pursuant to this 1976 act.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. There is added to chapter 19.27 RCW a new section to read as follows:

Nothing in this 1976 act shall affect the provisions of RCW 19.27.080.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, the support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately.

Passed the House February 16, 1976.
Passed the Senate February 13, 1976.
Approved by the Governor February 20, 1976.
Filed in Office of Secretary of State February 20, 1976.