

Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
Buffy Wicks, Chair
AB 2044 (Petrie-Norris) – As Introduced February 17, 2026

Policy Committee: Housing and Community Development Vote: 12 - 0

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: No Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill prohibits the California Building Standards Commission (CBSC) from approving or adopting a proposed building standard if CBSC finds the initial statement of reason (ISOR) is submitted without a completed statement of estimated cost compliance, including the related assumptions used to determine the estimate, as required by existing law.

FISCAL EFFECT:

CBSC anticipates minor and absorbable costs. CBSC indicates it is already required to review each state agency's ISOR for proposed building standards with building standards law and the APA.

COMMENTS:

1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

Existing law requires state agencies to publish any cost estimates that come about from a proposed change to the building code. Unfortunately, many agencies provide inadequate information, denying the public the opportunity to determine if the benefits outweigh the costs. This bill is a straightforward transparency measure to ensure that agencies provide an honest accounting of the costs associated with a proposed building standard change.

2) **Background. *Building Standards.*** The California Building Standards Law establishes the process for adopting state building standards by the California Building Standard Commission (CBSC). There are approximately 20 state agencies that develop building standards and propose them for adoption to the CBSC, most commonly HCD, the State Fire Marshall, and the Division of the State Architect. The CBSC publishes the approved building standards in the California Building Standards Code.

Existing law requires any building standard adopted or proposed by a state agency to be submitted to and approved or adopted by CBSC before publication and in compliance with certain procedures, including, among others, procedures required under the Administrative Procedures Act (APA).

The Administrative Procedures Act (APA). The APA establishes the general process for the adoption of state regulations, including the adoption of building standards. Prior to submission to CBSC for publication in the California Code of Regulations or transmittal to the Secretary of State for codification, the APA requires every state agency proposing new or amended regulations to prepare and submit to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) a notice of the proposed action and an initial statement of reasons (ISOR) for proposing the change in regulation.

AB 1612 (Lara), Chapter 471, Statutes of 2012, required an ISOR for a building standard regulation to include the estimated cost of compliance, the estimated potential benefits, and the related assumptions used to determine the estimates.

If CBSC finds the ISOR is submitted without a completed statement of estimated cost compliance, including the related assumptions used to determine the estimate, this bill prohibits CBSC from approving the proposed or adopted building standard.

- 3) **Related Legislation.** AB 1926 (Pacheco), of this legislative session, prohibits a new regulation that could increase construction costs for single-family and multifamily residential construction from being valid or effective unless it is submitted by, or approved in writing by, HCD before transmittal to the Secretary of State or the OAL. AB 1926 is pending in this committee.

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