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BILL



ANALYSIS

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Senate Bill 570 (as introduced 7-13-11)  
Sponsor: Senator Mike Green  
Committee: Regulatory Reform

(as enrolled)

Date Completed: 11-2-11

### **CONTENT**

**The bill would amend the Single State Construction Code Act to allow log walls in residential buildings under certain conditions.**

Specifically, log walls would be permitted in residential buildings if the following requirements were met:

- The walls had a minimum average thickness of at least five inches.
- The walls complied with the International Code Council standard on the design and construction of log structures, ICC 400-2007, or other successor standard that the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) specified by rule.
- The area weighted average U-factor for fenestration products in the log was a maximum of 0.31.
- All energy efficiency requirements of the Act, and rules promulgated under it, applicable to components other than log walls were met.

In addition, the building heating equipment would have to be qualified under the Energy Star program jointly operated by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, or the building heating equipment would have to meet or exceed the following DOE ratings:

- For a gas furnace, an annual fuel utilization efficiency (AFUE) of 90.
- For an oil furnace, an AFUE of 85.
- For a boiler, an AFUE of 85.
- For a split system air source heat pump, an 8.2 heating seasonal performance factor (HSPF).
- For a closed loop water-to-air geothermal heat pump, an energy efficiency rating of 14.1 and a coefficient of performance of 3.3.
- For an open loop water-to-air geothermal heat pump, an energy efficiency rating of 16.2 and a coefficient of performance of 3.6.
- For a closed loop water-to-water geothermal heat pump, an energy efficiency rating of 15.1 and a coefficient of performance of 3.0.
- For an open loop water-to-water geothermal heat pump, an energy efficiency rating of 19.1 and a coefficient of performance of 3.4.
- For a direct geothermal exchange, an energy efficiency rating of 15.0 and a coefficient of performance of 3.5.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

The bill would have no fiscal impact on State or local government.

Fiscal Analyst: Josh Sefton

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This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.