

**BUILDING STANDARDS COMMISSION**

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# CALIFORNIA BUILDING STANDARDS COMMISSION INFORMATION BULLETIN 24-04

**DATE:** December 27, 2024

**TO:** CBSC INTERESTED PARTIES  
LOCAL BUILDING DEPARTMENTS  
STATE AGENCIES AND DEPARTMENTS

**SUBJECT:** 2024 LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

This information bulletin summarizes the 2024 legislative changes to state laws related to the California Building Standards Commission (CBSC) and state building standards. The statutory changes summarized in this bulletin become effective on January 1, 2025, unless otherwise specified in statute. The links will take you to the *California Legislative Information* website for the complete text on each law.

[AB 176 \(Committee on Budget, Chapter 998, Statutes of 2024\) Education finance: education omnibus trailer bill.](#) †

Sections 33 and 34 require SFM to promulgate updates to building standards for childcare centers pertaining to occupancy no later than January 1, 2027.

[AB 869 \(Wood, Chapter 801, Statutes of 2024\) Hospitals: seismic safety compliance.](#) †††

Authorizes a distressed hospital loan program recipient to seek approval from HCAI for a delay of the January 1, 2030, seismic compliance deadline of up to 3 years. Requires HCAI/OSHPD to develop emergency regulations to carve out extensions beyond 2030 for certain rural hospitals.

[AB 2579 \(Quirk-Silva, Chapter 835, Statutes of 2024\) Inspections: exterior elevated elements.](#)

Extends the deadline for initial inspections of exterior elevated elements and associated waterproofing elements for buildings with 3 or more dwelling units until January 1, 2026

[AB 2866 \(Pellerin, Chapter 745, Statutes of 2024\) Pool safety: State Department of Social Services regulated facilities.](#)

Requires a licensed childcare facility or child daycare center with a swimming pool to have at least two safety features specified in the Swimming Pool Safety Act.

[AB 3281 \(Committee on Judiciary, Chapter 853, Statutes of 2024\) Judiciary omnibus.](#)<sup>+++</sup>

Amends Government Code Section 4459 to clarify that DSA can develop amendments or building regulations to align with a provision improving accessibility and adopted in a national specification, published standard, or model code.

[SB 504 \(Dodd, Chapter 982, Statutes of 2024\) Wildfires: defensible space: grant programs: local governments.](#)

Requires updates of defensible space and ember-resistant zone implementation timeframes and public education and outreach programs. This bill also requires the State Fire Marshal to give priority to any local governmental entity qualified to perform defensible space assessments in very high and high fire hazard severity zones, as specified.

[SB 552 \(Newman, Chapter 769, Statutes of 2024\) Public safety: pools and spas.](#)

Removes the definition of an approved safety pool cover and recasts that drowning safety feature as a manually-operated or power-operated safety pool cover to be accompanied by a label verifying that the cover meets specific standards. Also made changes to the definitions of and requirements for alarms.

[SB 597 \(Glazer, Chapter 861, Statutes of 2024\) Building standards: rainwater catchment systems.](#)<sup>++</sup>

Requires the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to review current building standards, and research and develop recommendations regarding building standards for installation of rainwater catchment systems for nonpotable uses in newly constructed residential dwellings. The bill also authorizes HCD to propose related building standards for consideration by the California Building Standards Commission. SB 597 requires a report to specified committees of the legislature by January 1, 2027, regarding the outcomes of HCD's research and the recommendations developed.

[SB 1091 \(Menjivar, Chapter 1014, Statutes of 2024\) School facilities: school projects: accessible path of travel requirements.](#)<sup>+++</sup>

Limits the cost of complying with the requirement to provide an accessible path of travel for school projects that are approved by the Division of the State Architect (DSA) on or before December 31, 2030, to 20% of the adjusted construction cost of the project. The bill applies to projects that improve community ecological health and climate resilience, or pupil well-being, learning, or pupil play, and incorporates nature. SB 1091 authorizes DSA to adopt regulations to implement these provisions.

[SB 1152 \(Limón, Chapter 781, Statutes of 2024\) State Fire Marshal: fire safety: regulations: lithium-based battery systems: telecommunications infrastructure.](#)<sup>†</sup>

Requires the State Fire Marshal (SFM), before the next triennial building codes adoption cycle, to propose updates to the requirements relating to lithium battery systems. The updates must address the specific environments in which communications utilities are required to deploy the lithium-based battery systems in order to meet specified requirements relating to backup electricity for telecommunications infrastructure.

[SB 1271 \(Min, Chapter 791, Statutes of 2024\) Electric bicycles, powered mobility devices, and storage batteries.](#) †

Requires SFM to adopt regulations that promote the fire and electrical safety of electric bicycles, powered mobility devices, and storage batteries commencing January 1, 2026.

[SB 1382 \(Glazer, Chapter 796, Statutes of 2024\) Community and rural health clinics: building standards.](#) †††

Requires construction standards for the community clinics or rural health clinics established by HCAI and established or applied by a city or county to comply with safety and accessibility standards required for the physical environment of a clinic to ensure participation in the federal Medicare and Medicaid programs.

As appropriate, CBSC updates the California Building Standards Code (California Code of Regulations, Title 24) with changes resulting from newly enacted legislation. This information bulletin is *not* intended to be a complete digest of all new laws affecting buildings, building standards, and CBSC.

Sincerely,

*Stoyan Bumbalov*

Stoyan Bumbalov, Executive Director  
Department of General Services, California Building Standards Commission

† Please contact the Office of the State Fire Marshal (SFM) for further information on bills that have an impact on fire safety:

(916) 568-3800

Office of the State Fire Marshal — Headquarters

715 P Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

PO Box 944246

[SFM website](#)

†† Please contact the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) for further information on bills that have an impact on housing:

(800) 952-8356

Department of Housing and Community Development

9342 Tech Center Drive, Suite 500

Sacramento, CA 95826

[HCD website](#)

††† Please contact the Division of the State Architect (DSA) for further information on bills that have an impact on K-12 public schools, community colleges, and building accessibility in public accommodations:

(916) 445-8100

Division of the State Architect

1102 Q Street, Suite 5100

Sacramento, CA 95811

[DSA website](#)

††† Please contact the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) for further information on bills that have an impact on health care facilities:

(916) 326-3600

Department of Health Care Access and Information

2020 W. El Camino Avenue, Suite 800

Sacramento, CA 95833

[HCAI website](#)