

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 27, 1995

SENATE BILL

No. 577

Introduced by Senator Rosenthal

February 21, 1995

An act to amend ~~Section 19183~~ *Sections 19183 and 19202* of, and to add ~~Section 19182.5~~ *19203.5* to, the Health and Safety Code, relating to seismic safety, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 577, as amended, Rosenthal. Seismic safety: seismic gas shutoff valves.

(1) Existing law authorizes any city, county, or city and county to enact an ordinance requiring the installation of earthquake-sensitive gas shutoff valves in buildings that are open to the public. Existing law requires the State Architect to certify seismic gas shutoff valves that, as determined by the State Architect, meet certain prescribed requirements.

This bill would ~~specify the method of installation of a seismic gas shutoff valve certified by the State Architect and would specify the persons eligible to install the valve. The bill would require that manufacturers of earthquake-sensitive shutoff valves certified by the State Architect shall renew their certification with~~ *authorize the State Architect every 5 years after gaining this certification to conduct unannounced inspections of any qualified seismic gas shutoff valve testing laboratory or inspection service agency, as defined. The bill would require that a seismic gas shutoff valve certified by the State Architect have a warranty specifying that the*

manufacturer will replace, at no charge to the purchaser, any valve that does not operate free of defects for a term of at least 30 years. The bill would require that, on or before July 1, 1996, the owner of any mobilehome park shall install a certified seismic gas shutoff valve capable of shutting off and venting gas service lines for the entire mobilehome park.

Because this bill would authorize a new purpose for expenditure of moneys from a continuously appropriated fund that is dedicated to the funding of the administration of the certification program by the State Architect, the bill would make an appropriation. Because violation of these provisions is punishable as a misdemeanor, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program by creating a new crime.

(2) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 ~~SECTION 1. Section 19182.5 is added to the Health~~
2 ~~and Safety Code, to read:~~
3 ~~19182.5. (a) A seismic gas shutoff valve, certified,~~
4 ~~pursuant to Section 19182, by the State Architect, shall be~~
5 ~~installed on each fuel gas line when serving the following~~
6 ~~buildings or structures:~~
7 ~~(1) A building or structure containing fuel gas piping~~
8 ~~for which a building permit is first issued on or after~~
9 ~~January 1, 1996.~~
10 ~~(2) An existing building or structure that is altered or~~
11 ~~added to, and to which both of the following are~~
12 ~~applicable:~~
13 ~~(A) The building or structure has fuel gas piping~~
14 ~~supplying the existing building or structure or the~~
15 ~~addition thereto.~~



1 ~~(B) The alteration of, or the addition to, the building~~
2 ~~or structure is valued at more than ten thousand dollars~~
3 ~~(\$10,000), and a building permit for the work is first issued~~
4 ~~on or after January 1, 1996.~~

5 ~~(b) (1) A seismic gas shutoff valve installed on a~~
6 ~~building or structure prior to January 1, 1996, is exempt~~
7 ~~from the requirements of this section, provided that the~~
8 ~~seismic gas shutoff valve is maintained in working order~~
9 ~~for the useful life of the building or structure or is~~
10 ~~replaced with a seismic gas shutoff valve that complies~~
11 ~~with this section.~~

12 ~~(2) Newly constructed or existing buildings that~~
13 ~~contain engineered gas systems approved by the State~~
14 ~~Architect are exempt from the requirements of this~~
15 ~~section.~~

16 ~~(c) A seismic gas shutoff valve may be installed by any~~
17 ~~of the following persons:~~

18 ~~(1) A contractor, including, but not necessarily limited~~
19 ~~to, a plumbing contractor, licensed pursuant to Chapter~~
20 ~~9 (commencing with Section 7000) of Division 3 of the~~
21 ~~Business and Professions Code.~~

22 ~~(2) A person determined by the State Architect to be~~
23 ~~a qualified installer.~~

24 ~~(3) A gas utility, within the meaning of that phrase as~~
25 ~~used in the Public Utilities Code, provided that a permit~~
26 ~~is obtained and the seismic gas shutoff valve is installed~~
27 ~~and approved in accordance with this section.~~

28 ~~(d) The installation of a seismic gas shutoff valve~~
29 ~~pursuant to this section shall be in accordance with~~
30 ~~standards issued by the State Architect pursuant to~~
31 ~~Section 19182.~~

32 ~~(e) (1) The State Architect shall not certify any~~
33 ~~seismic gas shutoff valve that does not have a warranty~~
34 ~~with a term of at least 30 years. The warranty shall~~
35 ~~warrant that the seismic gas shutoff valve is free from~~
36 ~~defects and that it will continue to properly operate for~~
37 ~~at least 30 years from the date of installation.~~

38 ~~(2) When a seismic gas shutoff valve is installed as~~
39 ~~required by this section, it shall be maintained by the~~
40 ~~manufacturer for the life of the building or structure in~~



1 ~~which it is installed or replaced with a seismic gas shutoff~~
2 ~~valve complying with this section.~~

3 ~~SEC. 2.~~

4 *SECTION 1.* Section 19183 of the Health and Safety
5 Code is amended to read:

6 19183. (a) Manufacturers of earthquake sensitive gas
7 shutoff valves or other devices required by an ordinance
8 adopted pursuant to Section 19182, shall first obtain
9 certification that the device meets the standards
10 established pursuant to Section 19182 prior to offering the
11 device for sale in the state and shall renew their
12 certification with the State Architect every five years
13 thereafter.

14 (b) The State Architect shall establish a certification
15 procedure for earthquake sensitive gas shutoff devices
16 and shall establish a fee for the certification. *The State*
17 *Architect shall have the authority to conduct*
18 *unannounced inspections of any qualified testing*
19 *laboratory or inspection service agency, as defined in*
20 *Sections 1380 and 1382 of Title 21 of the California Code*
21 *of Regulations. Any inspection service agency that*
22 *conducts an inspection pursuant to Section 1382 of Title*
23 *21 of the California Code of Regulations shall submit a*
24 *copy of the inspection report with the State Architect*
25 *within 30 days of the completion of the inspection report.*
26 Fees imposed pursuant to this subdivision shall be equal
27 to the costs associated with making the certification and
28 enforcing this section and ~~Sections 19182 and 19182.5~~
29 *implementing Section 19182*, and are continuously
30 appropriated to the State Architect for administering the
31 certification program.

32 ~~SEC. 3.~~

33 *SEC. 2.* Section 19202 of the Health and Safety Code
34 is amended to read:

35 19202. The State Architect shall certify seismic gas
36 shutoff valves which, as determined by the State
37 Architect, comply with Chapter 12-23 (commencing with
38 Section 12-23-101) of Part 12 of Title 24 of the California
39 ~~Administrative~~ *Code of Regulations*, and which meet all
40 of the following requirements:



1 (a) The design of the valve shall be operationally
2 simplistic with an integral process design for assuring an
3 optimum level of control and trouble-free functional
4 operation.

5 (b) The design of the valve shall provide a proven
6 method to automatically provide for expedient and safe
7 gas shutoff in an emergency.

8 (c) The design of the valve shall minimize or preclude
9 the disruption to the flow of gas from erroneous
10 vibrations, alien forces, or both erroneous vibrations and
11 alien forces.

12 (d) The design of the valve shall provide a capability
13 for ease of consumer or owner resetting without concern
14 for safety.

15 (e) The operational and functional design of the valve
16 shall be at least equal to the valve certified by the State
17 Architect pursuant to Article 6 (commencing with
18 Section 19180).

19 (f) *The valve shall have a warranty specifying that the*
20 *manufacturer will replace, at no charge to the purchaser,*
21 *any valve that does not operate free of defects for a term*
22 *of at least 30 years.*

23 *SEC. 3. Section 19203.5 is added to the Health and*
24 *Safety Code, to read:*

25 *19203.5. On or before July 1, 1996, the owner of any*
26 *mobilehome park shall install a certified seismic gas*
27 *shutoff valve capable of shutting off and venting gas*
28 *service lines for the entire mobilehome park.*

29 *SEC. 4. No reimbursement is required by this act*
30 *pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California*
31 *Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred*
32 *by a local agency or school district will be incurred*
33 *because this act creates a new crime or infraction,*
34 *eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty*
35 *for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section*
36 *17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition*
37 *of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article*
38 *XIII B of the California Constitution.*

39 *Notwithstanding Section 17580 of the Government*
40 *Code, unless otherwise specified, the provisions of this act*



1 shall become operative on the same date that the act
2 takes effect pursuant to the California Constitution.

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