

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 17, 1995

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 27, 1995

SENATE BILL

No. 577

Introduced by Senator Rosenthal

February 21, 1995

An act to amend Sections ~~19183 and 19202~~ 19181, 19182, 19183, 19200, 19201, 19202, 19203, and 19204 of, and to add Section 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~~ devices.

(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 *change references in existing law from seismic gas shutoff 'valves' to seismic gas shutoff "devices."* The bill would authorize the State Architect to conduct unannounced inspections of any qualified seismic gas shutoff ~~valve~~ device testing laboratory or inspection service agency, as defined. The bill would require that a seismic gas shutoff ~~valve~~ device certified by the State Architect have a warranty specifying that the manufacturer will replace, at no charge to the purchaser, any ~~valve~~ device 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~~ *January 1, 1998, with regard to a mobilehome park located in seismic zone 4, and on or before January 1, 2000, with regard to a mobilehome park located in seismic zone 3*, the owner of any *master-metered mobilehome park shall, or the utility serving any direct-metered mobilehome park*, install a certified seismic gas shutoff ~~valve~~ *device* capable of shutting off, and *equipment capable of venting, gas service lines for the entire mobilehome park, as specified. The bill would require the Public Utilities Commission to establish a catastrophic memorandum account that would allow any owner of a master-metered mobilehome park to pass on to the mobilehome park tenants an unspecified percentage of the installation, maintenance, and relighting costs associated with fulfilling these requirements.*

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 19181 of the Health and Safety*
 2 *Code is amended to read:*
 3 19181. Notwithstanding any other provision of law,
 4 the governing body of any city, county, or city and county
 5 may enact an ordinance requiring the installation of
 6 earthquake sensitive gas shutoff ~~valves~~ *devices* in



1 buildings open to the public. Any ordinance adopted
2 pursuant to this section shall conform to standards
3 adopted by the State Architect pursuant to Section 19182.

4 *SEC. 2. Section 19182 of the Health and Safety Code*
5 *is amended to read:*

6 19182. (a) The State Architect shall, on or before July
7 1, 1981, adopt standards governing earthquake sensitive
8 gas shutoff ~~valves~~ *devices* for installation in buildings.
9 ~~Such~~ *The* standards shall reasonably provide for
10 convenient installation and maintenance of gas shutoff
11 ~~valves~~ *devices*, as well as maintaining the safety of persons
12 occupying buildings equipped with ~~such~~ *valves these*
13 *devices*.

14 (b) In adopting standards pursuant to this section, the
15 State Architect shall consider standards for ~~such~~ *valves*
16 *the devices* developed by the Z-21 American National
17 Standards Committee and the comments or suggestions
18 from various public utilities.

19 *SEC. 3. Section 19183 of the Health and Safety Code*
20 *is amended to read:*

21 19183. (a) Manufacturers of earthquake sensitive gas
22 shutoff ~~valves~~ *devices* or other devices required by an
23 ordinance adopted pursuant to Section 19182, shall first
24 obtain certification that the device meets the standards
25 established pursuant to Section 19182 prior to offering the
26 device for sale in the state and shall renew their
27 certification with the State Architect every five years
28 thereafter.

29 (b) The State Architect shall establish a certification
30 procedure for earthquake sensitive gas shutoff devices
31 and shall establish a fee for the certification. The State
32 Architect shall have the authority to conduct
33 unannounced inspections of any qualified testing
34 laboratory or inspection service agency, as defined in
35 Sections 1380 and 1382 of Title 21 of the California Code
36 of Regulations. Any inspection service agency that
37 conducts an inspection pursuant to Section 1382 of Title
38 21 of the California Code of Regulations shall submit a
39 copy of the inspection report with the State Architect
40 within 30 days of the completion of the inspection report.



1 Fees imposed pursuant to this subdivision shall be equal
2 to the costs associated with making the certification and
3 enforcing this section and implementing Section 19182,
4 and are continuously appropriated to the State Architect
5 for administering the certification program.

6 ~~SEC. 2.—~~

7 *SEC. 4. Section 19200 of the Health and Safety Code*
8 *is amended to read:*

9 19200. The Legislature finds and declares that
10 existing law does not require that any new seismic gas
11 shutoff ~~valve~~ *device* sold by any person in this state shall,
12 prior to sale, be certified by the State Architect.

13 *SEC. 5. Section 19201 of the Health and Safety Code*
14 *is amended to read:*

15 19201. As used in this article, “certified seismic gas
16 shutoff ~~valve~~” *device*” means a seismic gas shutoff ~~valve~~
17 *device* certified by the State Architect pursuant to
18 Section 19202.

19 *SEC. 6. Section 19202 of the Health and Safety Code*
20 *is amended to read:*

21 19202. The State Architect shall certify seismic gas
22 shutoff ~~valves~~ *devices* which, as determined by the State
23 Architect, comply with Chapter 12-23 (commencing with
24 Section 12-23-101) of Part 12 of Title 24 of the California
25 Code of Regulations, and which meet all of the following
26 requirements:

27 (a) The design of the ~~valve~~ *device* shall be
28 operationally simplistic with an integral process design
29 for assuring an optimum level of control and trouble-free
30 functional operation.

31 (b) The design of the ~~valve~~ *device* shall provide a
32 proven method to automatically provide for expedient
33 and safe gas shutoff in an emergency.

34 (c) ~~The design of the valve shall minimize or preclude~~
35 ~~the disruption to the flow of gas from erroneous~~
36 ~~vibrations, alien forces, or both erroneous vibrations and~~
37 ~~alien forces. device, or the manufacturer’s installation~~
38 ~~instructions, shall preclude device activation by~~
39 ~~nonearthquake movements or forces.~~



1 (d) The design of the ~~valve~~ *device* shall provide a
2 capability for ease of consumer or owner resetting
3 without concern for safety.

4 (e) The operational and functional design of the ~~valve~~
5 *device* shall be at least equal to the ~~valve~~ *device* certified
6 by the State Architect pursuant to Article 6 (commencing
7 with Section 19180).

8 ~~(f) The valve shall have a warranty specifying that the~~
9 ~~manufacturer will replace, at no charge to the purchaser,~~
10 ~~any valve that does not operate free of defects for a term~~
11 ~~of at least 30 years.~~

12 ~~SEC. 3.—~~

13 *SEC. 7. Section 19203 of the Health and Safety Code*
14 *is amended to read:*

15 19203. Any new seismic gas shutoff ~~valve~~ *device* sold
16 by any person on or after January 1, 1987, in this state shall,
17 prior to sale, be certified by the State Architect.

18 *SEC. 8. Section 19203.5 is added to the Health and*
19 *Safety Code, to read:*

20 19203.5. ~~On or before July 1, 1996~~ *(a) On or before*
21 *January 1, 1998, the owner of any mobilehome park shall*
22 ~~install a certified seismic gas shutoff valve capable of~~
23 ~~shutting off and venting gas service lines for the entire~~
24 ~~mobilehome park.~~

25 ~~SEC. 4.—~~*master-metered mobilehome park, or the*
26 *utility serving any direct-metered mobilehome park,*
27 *located in seismic zone 4, shall install a certified seismic*
28 *gas shutoff device capable of shutting off gas to the entire*
29 *mobilehome park. On or before January 1, 1998, the*
30 *owner of any master-metered mobilehome park, or the*
31 *utility serving any direct-metered mobilehome park, also*
32 *shall install equipment capable of automatically venting*
33 *gas service lines for the entire mobilehome park upon*
34 *activation of the certified seismic gas shutoff device if the*
35 *park is served by gas that is lighter than air.*

36 *(b) On or before January 1, 2000, the owner of any*
37 *master-metered mobilehome park, or the utility serving*
38 *any direct-metered mobilehome park, located in seismic*
39 *zone 3, shall install a certified seismic gas shutoff device*
40 *capable of shutting off gas to the entire mobilehome park.*



1 *On or before January 1, 2000, the owner of any*
2 *master-metered mobilehome park, or the utility serving*
3 *any direct-metered mobilehome park, also shall install*
4 *equipment capable of automatically venting gas service*
5 *lines for the entire mobilehome park upon activation of*
6 *the certified seismic gas shutoff device if the park is*
7 *served by gas that is lighter than air.*

8 *(c) Any mobilehome park owner required to install a*
9 *certified seismic gas shutoff device pursuant to this*
10 *section may install a certified seismic gas shutoff device*
11 *for each mobilehome, rather than a device capable of*
12 *shutting off gas to the entire mobilehome park, if that*
13 *option will result in lower installation, maintenance, and*
14 *relighting costs for the mobilehome park owner and*
15 *residents.*

16 *(d) The Public Utilities Commission shall establish a*
17 *catastrophic memorandum account that allows any*
18 *owner of a master-metered mobilehome park to pass on*
19 *to the mobilehome park tenants — percent of the*
20 *installation, maintenance, and relighting costs associated*
21 *with fulfilling the requirements of this section.*

22 *(e) The mobilehome park owner shall ensure that the*
23 *payment schedule for installation, maintenance, and*
24 *relighting costs associated with this section shall not cause*
25 *undue financial hardship on the residents of any*
26 *mobilehome park.*

27 *(f) For purposes of this section, “seismic zone 3” and*
28 *“seismic zone 4” have the same meaning as defined in*
29 *Part 2 of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations.*

30 *SEC. 9. Section 19204 of the Health and Safety Code*
31 *is amended to read:*

32 *19204. ~~This~~ With the exception of Section 19203.5, this*
33 *article is limited to the service connections of individual*
34 *structures to main gas lines and to connections of*
35 *appliances to gas lines and does not apply to valves*
36 *devices within gas lines.*

37 *SEC. 10. No reimbursement is required by this act*
38 *pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California*
39 *Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred*
40 *by a local agency or school district will be incurred*



1 because this act creates a new crime or infraction,
2 eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty
3 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section
4 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition
5 of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article
6 XIII B of the California Constitution.

7 Notwithstanding Section 17580 of the Government
8 Code, unless otherwise specified, the provisions of this act
9 shall become operative on the same date that the act
10 takes effect pursuant to the California Constitution.

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