

- SUBJECT:** Revised standards for air conditioning and refrigeration contracting
- COMMITTEE:** Licensing and Administrative Procedures — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 9 ayes — Wilson, Yarbrough, Flores, Goolsby, Haggerty, D. Jones, J. Moreno, A. Reyna, Wise
- 0 nays
- WITNESSES:** For — Jack Burluson, Southern Building Code Congress International; Randy Childers, City of Waco and Building Officials Association of Texas; Michael L. Clack, City of San Antonio; Charlie Hall, Westway Sales, Inc.; Cassie Hughes, City of Abilene and Building Officials Association of Texas; Nancy McNabb, BOCA International; Carroll Lee Pruitt, International Conference of Building Officials; *Registered but did not testify:* Nancy Fisher, Texas Association of Builders; David Mintz, Texas Apartment Association; Larry Niemann, Texas Building Owners and Managers Association, Texas Mini Storage Association, and Texas Institute of Building Designers
- Against — None
- On — Jimmy G. Martin, Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation; Todd McAlister, Texas Air Conditioning Contractors Association
- BACKGROUND:** Under Texas' Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Contractor License Law (V.A.C.S., art. 8861), installation of products, systems, or equipment must meet standards of mechanical integrity that are at least as strict as those set forth in the Uniform Mechanical Code, published jointly by the International Conference of Building Officials and the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials, or in the Standard Mechanical Code, published by the Southern Building Code Congress International or its successor. The commissioner of licensing and regulation must adopt those standards as rules for practicing as a contractor.

**DIGEST:** CSHB 196 would require air conditioning and refrigeration contractors' installations to meet standards at least as strict as those set forth in the Uniform Mechanical Code and the International Mechanical Code, published by the International Code Council. The commissioner of licensing and regulation would have to adopt those standards for contracting.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2001.

**SUPPORTERS SAY:** CSHB 196 would update current law to match the standards that air conditioning and refrigeration contractors actually are using. Several states already have adopted the new International Mechanical Code, and many Texas cities also are using it.

The Uniform Mechanical Code and the Standard Mechanical Code no longer are being published. In 1996, an umbrella organization representing the Southern Building Code Congress International, International Conference of Building Officials, and Building Officials and Code Administrators International published the International Mechanical Code. The new code is intended to protect public health and safety without increasing costs by streamlining the construction process.

**OPPONENTS SAY:** No apparent opposition.

**NOTES:** The committee substitute would require compliance with both the Uniform Mechanical Code and the International Mechanical Code, rather than with one or the other, as in the filed version.

The companion bill, SB 540 by Sibley, has been referred to the Senate Business and Commerce Committee.