



Snohomish County
Planning & Development Services

Aaron Reardon
County Executive

M/S #604
3000 Rockefeller Avenue
(425) 388-3311
FAX (425) 388-3872

August 30, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of a state law that went into affect July 31, 2006 that "could potentially" require installation of a fire sprinkler system in your type of business. Washington State Legislation approved Engrossed Substitute Bill (ESHB) 1401, requiring a fire sprinkler system to be installed in existing nightclubs by December 1, 2007 if "**all four**" (4) specific criteria identified in the bill are met.

The definition of the term "nightclub" used to determine whether or not the sprinkler requirement applies to a particular club or business establishment, other than a theater with fixed seating, which includes ALL of the following:

1. "Provides live entertainment by paid performing artists or by way of recorded music conducted by a person employed or engaged to do so"
2. "Has a primary source or revenue from the sale of beverages of any kind for consumption on the premises and/or cover charge"
3. "Has an occupant load of 100 or more"
4. "Includes assembly space without fixed seats considered concentrated or standing space"

The County building and fire officials are charged with enforcing the provisions of the law through the Washington State Building Code Act.

Your entertainment business has been identified as "**potentially**" meeting the definition of a nightclub that would be subject to this law. To assist you in properly identifying if your business will be required to install a fire sprinkler system, you may contact Ron Tangen, Senior Fire Inspector at 425-388-3311, ext. 2264.

We understand that the provisions of this law may have significant financial and business implications on the operation of your business. We will make every effort to help you understand the requirements of the law and if it will apply to your business.

Sincerely,

Michael W. McCrary
Building Official

Attachments: State Building Code Council, Fire Sprinkler Requirements for Nightclubs
State Building Code Council, Guidelines for Nightclub Sprinkler Rule