



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
www.cityofmadison.com

Master

File Number: 56834

File ID: 56834

File Type: Ordinance

Status: Passed

Version: 2

Reference:

Controlling Body: Attorney's
Office/Approval
Group

Lead Referral: BUILDING CODE, FIRE
CODE, CONVEYANCE
CODE AND
LICENSING APPEALS
BOARD

File Created Date : 07/29/2019

File Name: Sprinklers

Final Action: 09/03/2019

Title: SUBSTITUTE Creating Section 29.22 of the Madison General Ordinances to
include exits from basements and ground floors used for sleeping.

Notes: 6259sprinklersSUB
MAYORAL APPROVAL: 09/06/19

CC Agenda Date: 09/03/2019

Agenda Number: 41.

Sponsors: Paul E. Skidmore and Michael E. Verveer

Effective Date: 09/17/2019

Attachments: Version 1

Enactment Number: ORD-19-00064

Author: Kate Smith

Hearing Date:

Entered by: dalthaus@cityofmadison.com

Published Date: 09/16/2019

Approval History

Version	Date	Approver	Action
1		Michael May	Approved as to Form
1		Brent Sloat	Approve
2		Michael May	Approved as to Form
2		Brent Sloat	Approve

History of Legislative File

Ver- sion:	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:
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- 1 Attorney's Office/Approval 07/29/2019 Referred for
Group Introduction
Action Text: This Ordinance was Referred for Introduction
Notes: Building Code, Fire Code, Conveyance Code and Licensing Appeals Board
- 1 COMMON COUNCIL 08/06/2019 Referred BUILDING CODE, 08/20/2019
FIRE CODE,
CONVEYANCE
CODE AND
LICENSING
APPEALS BOARD
Action Text: This Ordinance was Referred to the BUILDING CODE, FIRE CODE, CONVEYANCE CODE AND
LICENSING APPEALS BOARD
Notes:
- 1 BUILDING CODE, FIRE 08/20/2019 RECOMMEND TO
CODE, CONVEYANCE COUNCIL TO
CODE AND LICENSING ADOPT - REPORT
APPEALS BOARD OF OFFICER
Action Text: Creating Section 29.22 of the Madison General Ordinances to include exits from basements and
ground floors used for sleeping. Louis J. Olson made motion to recommend for approval with
language for the definitions to follow the state UDC code, seconded by John P. Starkweather. The
motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.
Notes:
- 2 COMMON COUNCIL 09/03/2019 Adopt Substitute Pass
Action Text: A motion was made by Bidar, seconded by Harrington-McKinney, to Adopt Substitute. The motion
passed by voice vote/other.
Notes:
-

Text of Legislative File 56834

Fiscal Note

No City appropriation required.

Title

SUBSTITUTE Creating Section 29.22 of the Madison General Ordinances to include exits from basements and ground floors used for sleeping.

Body

DRAFTER'S ANALYSIS: Section 29.22 is created to incentivize the installation of home fire sprinklers and allow builders and homeowners greater flexibility in the design and construction of one- and two-family dwellings. The Uniform Dwelling Code ("UDC") currently requires basements and ground floors used for sleeping must be provided with at least two exits. Builders and homeowners may choose to install fire sprinklers throughout their home in lieu of a second exit from sleeping areas in basements.

Home fire sprinklers are proven to save lives, property and the environment. The current UDC requirements recognize home fire sprinklers as an alternative to a second exit from habitable floor levels above the second floor. The proposal is not more or less restrictive than the UDC. It offers the builder and homeowner an alternative to a second exit. The option allows greater flexibility in the code to address site conditions that are unfavorable for a second exit of egress window.

This Substitute corrects text in the "Basement" definition to conform to the UDC definition.

Note: This amendment will become effective upon approval by DSPS.

The Common Council of the City of Madison do hereby ordain as follows:

Section 29.22 entitled "Exits From Basements and Ground Floors Used for Sleeping" of the Madison General Ordinances is created to read as follows:

"29.22 EXITS FROM BASEMENTS AND GROUND FLOORS USED FOR SLEEPING.

(1) In this section:

"Basement" means to that portion of a dwelling below the first floor or ground floor with its entire floor below grade.

"Fire sprinklers" means an automatic fire suppression or control device that operates automatically when its heat-activated element is heated to its thermal rating or above, allowing water to discharge over a specified area.

"First floor" means the first floor level above any ground floor or basement or, in the absence of a ground floor or basement, means the lowest floor level in the dwelling.

"Ground floor" means that level of a dwelling, below the first floor, located on a site with a sloping or multilevel grade and which has a portion of its floor line at grade.

(2) The following is in addition to the requirements of Wis. Admin. Code ch. 321:

a. Wis. Adm. § SPS 321.03(5)(b)1. shall be amended to add the following exception:

- i. A second exit from a basement or ground floor used for sleeping is not required if the dwelling is fully protected by fire sprinklers in accordance with NFPA 13R or 13D."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Wis. Adm. § SPS 321.03(5)(b)1. reads as follows:

"(b) Basements and ground floors used for sleeping.

1. Basements and ground floors used for sleeping shall be provided with at least 2 exits."

CITY OF MADISON, WISCONSIN

A SUBSTITUTE ORDINANCE _____

PRESENTED
REFERRED

August 6, 2019
BC, FC, CC & LA Board

Creating Section 29.22 of the Madison General Ordinances to include exits from basements and ground floors used for sleeping.

Drafted by: Kate Smith

LEGISTAR #56834

Date: August 26, 2019

SPONSOR: Alder Skidmore

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Approved as to form:

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“(b) *Basements and ground floors used for sleeping.*

1. Basements and ground floors used for sleeping shall be provided with at least 2 exits.”