

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Planning Code - Efficiency Dwelling Units - Numerical Cap and Open/Common Space]

Ordinance amending the San Francisco Planning Code by: 1) adding Section 318 to put a cap on the number of Efficiency Dwelling Units, as defined in the Building Code, that can be constructed with reduced square footage unless the units are group housing, affordable housing, or student housing; 2) amending Section 135(d) and adding Section 135.4 to impose open space and common space requirements on Efficiency Dwelling Units with reduced square footage; and 3) making environmental findings, Planning Code Section 302 findings, and findings of consistency with the General Plan and the Priority Policies of Planning Code Section 101.1.

Existing Law

Planning Code Section 135 establishes the usable open space requirement for dwelling units and group housing in specified zoning districts.

Amendments to Current Law

Planning Code Section 318 is added to define “Efficiency Dwelling Units with reduced square footage” as having a living room of less than 220 square feet and meeting the requirements of Section 1208.4 of the San Francisco Building Code, and to provide that no more than 900 of such units may be built unless they are affordable housing, group housing, or student housing. After approximately 750 such units have been approved, the Planning Department shall submit a report to the Board of Supervisors that provides information to assist the Board in determining whether to increase the numerical cap or to otherwise modify the requirements.

Section 135 is amended to provide that common usable open space is the preferred method of meeting the Code’s open space requirement for Efficiency Dwelling Units with reduced square footage unless the Zoning Administrator determines that this is infeasible or undesirable for specified reasons. Section 135.4 is added require buildings with 20 or more Efficiency Dwelling Units with reduced square footage to include at least one common room for use by the residents.

Background Information

Efficiency Dwelling Units with a living room of less than 220 square feet is a new housing type in San Francisco. Putting a numerical cap on the total number that can be built until the Planning Department provides information to the Board will enable the Board to assess the impacts of constructing these units in order to determine whether to increase the numerical cap or to otherwise modify the requirements.