

## **LEGISLATIVE DIGEST**

[Fire Code - Fire Apparatus Access Roads]

**Ordinance amending the San Francisco Fire Code to amend the San Francisco Fire Marshal's authority to increase the minimum access widths for streets; repeal the prohibition against traffic calming devices that the Fire Marshal has not approved, and reaffirm and clarify that the City has not adopted as part of the San Francisco Fire Code Appendix D of the California Fire Code, addressing standards for fire apparatus access roads; and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.**

### Existing Law

The 2013 San Francisco Fire Code incorporates by reference the 2013 California Fire Code (Title 24, California Code of Regulations, Part 9), including appendices the State adopted. The 2013 San Francisco Fire Code did not adopt Appendix D referenced in the State Code because it was advisory and because the State did not adopt it. In addition, subject to express deletions, modifications, or amendments, the 2013 San Francisco Fire Code incorporates by reference those portions of the 2012 International Fire Code that were not adopted by the California Building Standards Commission in the California Fire Code. The 2013 San Francisco Fire Code also includes local amendments specific to San Francisco.

Currently, the 2013 San Francisco Fire Code adopts section 503.2.2 of the 2013 California Fire Code, which authorizes the San Francisco Fire Marshal to require an increase in the minimum access widths of streets where they are inadequate for fire and rescue operations. The 2013 San Francisco Fire Code also adopts section 503.4.1 of the 2013 California Fire Code, which prohibits traffic calming devices without the San Francisco Fire Marshal's approval. Section 503 of the 2013 California Fire Code was not adopted by the California State Fire Marshal and is therefore discretionary for local municipalities.

### Amendments to Current Law

This amendment would authorize the San Francisco Fire Marshal to increase the minimum street width in individual cases but only after issuing a written determination finding that under a unique or exceptional condition not generally found in other parts of the city the minimum width that state law prescribes is inadequate for fire or rescue operations.

This amendment would also repeal the prohibition against the installation of traffic calming devices that the San Francisco Fire Marshal has not approved and reaffirm and clarify that the City has not adopted Appendix D of the California Fire Code as part of the San Francisco Fire Code. Appendix D is a discretionary appendix that sets standards for Fire Apparatus Access

Roads. Appendix D includes minimum specifications for access roads width for hydrants, dead end and turning radius requirements, fire apparatus access road gates, aerial fire apparatus access roads, multiple-family residential developments and one or two-family residential developments.

Nevertheless requiring the San Francisco Fire Marshal to demonstrate a unique or exceptional condition not generally found in other parts of the city warranting an increase in the minimum width, repealing the traffic calming devices provision, and reaffirming that Appendix D of the California Fire Code is not part of the local Fire Code, do not affect the San Francisco Fire Marshal's authority under State law. State law requires the San Francisco Fire Marshal to enforce all laws, ordinances, rules or regulations adopted under the Health and Safety Code and State Building Standards Code relating to fires, fire prevention and fire protection including Title 19 of the California Code of Regulations. Title 19 requires that all fire apparatus roads used to gain access to structures be at least 20 feet in width, unobstructed and maintained in a condition that makes them accessible to or from the public streets. Given this authority under Title 19, the designs of City agencies for streets and construction projects will remain subject to the determination of the San Francisco Fire Marshal that they do not impede access to fire fighting apparatuses.

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