

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Administrative Code - Establishing Tall Building Structural and Seismic Safety Advisory Committee]

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to establish the Tall Building Structural and Seismic Safety Advisory Committee to advise the Board of Supervisors, the Mayor, and the Department of Building Inspection regarding best practices to ensure the safety of residential and commercial buildings in seismically vulnerable neighborhoods; and setting forth the membership and duties of the Advisory Committee.

Existing Law

The City's Building Inspection Commission appoints the Director of the Department of Building Inspection, sets policy, and reviews proposed amendments to the San Francisco Building Code, Mechanical Code, Electrical Code, Plumbing Code, Green Building Code.

The Code Advisory Committee is a 17-member body that makes recommendations to the Building Inspection Commission on the development and improvement of the San Francisco Building Code, Mechanical Code, Electrical Code, Plumbing Code, Green Building Code and Housing Code and related rules and regulations or proposed ordinances.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposed ordinance would create the Tall Building Structural and Seismic Safety Advisory Committee. The Committee would have five members appointed by the Board of Supervisors: one structural engineer, one geotechnical engineer, one engineering seismologist, one employee of a college or university who has conducted research on historical seismic events, and one person with experience or expertise in fire safety.

Within six months of its inaugural meeting, the Committee would submit to the Board of Supervisors, the Mayor, and the Department of Building Inspection a report recommending best practices and policy options for (1) monitoring and investigating the performance of existing and future high-rise buildings in downtown San Francisco, and (2) ensuring the safety of high-rise buildings in seismically vulnerable neighborhoods. After the initial report, the Committee could issue additional reports on the same topics.

At the request of the Committee, the Department of Emergency Management could retain expert consultants to assist the Committee.