

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Electrical Code - Repeal of Existing 2016 Code and Enactment of 2019 Edition]

Ordinance repealing the 2016 Electrical Code in its entirety and enacting a 2019 Electrical Code consisting of the 2019 California Electrical Code as amended by San Francisco; adopting environmental findings and findings of local conditions under the California Health and Safety Code; providing an operative date of January 1, 2020; and directing the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors to forward the legislation to the California Building Standards Commission as required by State law.

Existing Law

The Electrical Code regulates equipment, wiring, and systems of electrical installations. The existing San Francisco Electrical Code consists of the 2016 California Electrical Code (which incorporates the 2014 National Electrical Code as amended by California) and San Francisco's local amendments to the California Electrical code.

Amendments to Current Law

Every three years the State of California adopts a new California Building Standards Code ("triennial CBSC"), which amends the California Electrical Code and the other state codes that constitute the CBSC. The 2019 triennial CBSC will go into effect throughout the State on January 1, 2020. As in past triennial CBSC adoption cycles, San Francisco will repeal its existing Electrical Code in its entirety and adopt a new Electrical Code that applies San Francisco's existing local amendments to the new California Electrical Code. Except for non-substantive or technical modifications required by amendments to the state code, there are no changes to the existing San Francisco Electrical Code amendments being carried forward.

Background Information

Local jurisdictions are required to enforce the California Building Standards Code but they may also enact more restrictive building standards that are reasonably necessary because of local climate, geology, or topography. Local amendments may be made to a triennial CBSC and also throughout the intervening years. However, local amendments previously adopted are not automatically transferred to a new triennial CBSC. Rather, they must be re-enacted with the required findings of local climate, geologic, or topographical conditions, expressly made applicable to the new triennial CBSC, and with an operative date no earlier than the effective date of the new State Code.