

**Representative Brady Brammer** proposes the following substitute bill:

**YURT AMENDMENTS**

2020 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Brady Brammer**

Senate Sponsor: Daniel Hemmert

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill addresses the regulation of yurts.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ exempts remote yurts from the State Construction Code;
- ▶ exempts remote yurts from the State Fire Code;
- ▶ exempts remote yurts from water quality provisions; and
- ▶ makes technical amendments.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**15A-1-204**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2017, Chapter 18

ENACTS:

**15A-5-104**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

**19-5-125**, Utah Code Annotated 1953



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*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

Section 1. Section **15A-1-204** is amended to read:

**15A-1-204. Adoption of State Construction Code -- Amendments by commission  
-- Approved codes -- Exemptions.**

(1) (a) The State Construction Code is the construction codes adopted with any modifications in accordance with this section that the state and each political subdivision of the state shall follow.

(b) A person shall comply with the applicable provisions of the State Construction Code when:

(i) new construction is involved; and

(ii) the owner of an existing building, or the owner's agent, is voluntarily engaged in:

(A) the repair, renovation, remodeling, alteration, enlargement, rehabilitation, conservation, or reconstruction of the building; or

(B) changing the character or use of the building in a manner that increases the occupancy loads, other demands, or safety risks of the building.

(c) On and after July 1, 2010, the State Construction Code is the State Construction Code in effect on July 1, 2010, until in accordance with this section:

(i) a new State Construction Code is adopted; or

(ii) one or more provisions of the State Construction Code are amended or repealed in accordance with this section.

(d) A provision of the State Construction Code may be applicable:

(i) to the entire state; or

(ii) within a county, city, or town.

(2) (a) The Legislature shall adopt a State Construction Code by enacting legislation that adopts a nationally recognized construction code with any modifications.

(b) Legislation described in Subsection (2)(a) shall state that the legislation takes effect on the July 1 after the day on which the legislation is enacted, unless otherwise stated in the legislation.

(c) Subject to Subsection (6), a State Construction Code adopted by the Legislature is the State Construction Code until, in accordance with this section, the Legislature adopts a new

57 State Construction Code by:

58 (i) adopting a new State Construction Code in its entirety; or

59 (ii) amending or repealing one or more provisions of the State Construction Code.

60 (3) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(b), for each update of a nationally  
61 recognized construction code, the commission shall prepare a report described in Subsection  
62 (4).

63 (b) For the provisions of a nationally recognized construction code that apply only to  
64 detached one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses not more than three stories above  
65 grade plane in height with separate means of egress and their accessory structures, the  
66 commission shall:

67 (i) prepare a report described in Subsection (4) in 2021 and, thereafter, for every  
68 second update of the nationally recognized construction code; and

69 (ii) not prepare a report described in Subsection (4) in 2018.

70 (4) (a) In accordance with Subsection (3), on or before September 1 of the same year as  
71 the year designated in the title of a nationally recognized construction code, the commission  
72 shall prepare and submit, in accordance with Section 68-3-14, a written report to the Business  
73 and Labor Interim Committee that:

74 (i) states whether the commission recommends the Legislature adopt the update with  
75 any modifications; and

76 (ii) describes the costs and benefits of each recommended change in the update or in  
77 any modification.

78 (b) After the Business and Labor Interim Committee receives the report described in  
79 Subsection (4)(a), the Business and Labor Interim Committee shall:

80 (i) study the recommendations; and

81 (ii) if the Business and Labor Interim Committee decides to recommend legislative  
82 action to the Legislature, prepare legislation for consideration by the Legislature in the next  
83 general session.

84 (5) (a) (i) The commission shall, by no later than September 1 of each year in which  
85 the commission is not required to submit a report described in Subsection (4), submit, in  
86 accordance with Section 68-3-14, a written report to the Business and Labor Interim  
87 Committee recommending whether the Legislature should amend or repeal one or more

88 provisions of the State Construction Code.

89 (ii) As part of a recommendation described in Subsection (5)(a)(i), the commission  
90 shall describe the costs and benefits of each proposed amendment or repeal.

91 (b) The commission may recommend legislative action related to the State  
92 Construction Code:

93 (i) on its own initiative;

94 (ii) upon the recommendation of the division; or

95 (iii) upon the receipt of a request by one of the following that the commission  
96 recommend legislative action related to the State Construction Code:

97 (A) a local regulator;

98 (B) a state regulator;

99 (C) a state agency involved with the construction and design of a building;

100 (D) the Construction Services Commission;

101 (E) the Electrician Licensing Board;

102 (F) the Plumbers Licensing Board; or

103 (G) a recognized construction-related association.

104 (c) If the Business and Labor Interim Committee decides to recommend legislative  
105 action to the Legislature, the Business and Labor Interim Committee shall prepare legislation  
106 for consideration by the Legislature in the next general session.

107 (6) (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the commission may, in  
108 accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, amend the State  
109 Construction Code if the commission determines that waiting for legislative action in the next  
110 general legislative session would:

111 (i) cause an imminent peril to the public health, safety, or welfare; or

112 (ii) place a person in violation of federal or other state law.

113 (b) If the commission amends the State Construction Code in accordance with this  
114 Subsection (6), the commission shall file with the division:

115 (i) the text of the amendment to the State Construction Code; and

116 (ii) an analysis that includes the specific reasons and justifications for the commission's  
117 findings.

118 (c) If the State Construction Code is amended under this Subsection (6), the division

119 shall:

120 (i) publish the amendment to the State Construction Code in accordance with Section  
121 15A-1-205; and

122 (ii) prepare and submit, in accordance with Section 68-3-14, a written notice to the  
123 Business and Labor Interim Committee containing the amendment to the State Construction  
124 Code, including a copy of the commission's analysis described in Subsection (6)(b)(ii).

125 (d) If not formally adopted by the Legislature at the next annual general session, an  
126 amendment to the State Construction Code under this Subsection (6) is repealed on the July 1  
127 immediately following the next annual general session that follows the adoption of the  
128 amendment.

129 (7) (a) The division, in consultation with the commission, may approve, without  
130 adopting, one or more approved codes, including a specific edition of a construction code, for  
131 use by a compliance agency.

132 (b) If the code adopted by a compliance agency is an approved code described in  
133 Subsection (7)(a), the compliance agency may:

134 (i) adopt an ordinance requiring removal, demolition, or repair of a building;

135 (ii) adopt, by ordinance or rule, a dangerous building code; or

136 (iii) adopt, by ordinance or rule, a building rehabilitation code.

137 (8) Except as provided in Subsections (6), (7), (9), and (10), or as expressly provided in  
138 state law, a state executive branch entity or political subdivision of the state may not, after  
139 December 1, 2016, adopt or enforce a rule, ordinance, or requirement that applies to a subject  
140 specifically addressed by, and that is more restrictive than, the State Construction Code.

141 (9) A state executive branch entity or political subdivision of the state may:

142 (a) enforce a federal law or regulation;

143 (b) adopt or enforce a rule, ordinance, or requirement if the rule, ordinance, or  
144 requirement applies only to a facility or construction owned or used by a state entity or a  
145 political subdivision of the state; or

146 (c) enforce a rule, ordinance, or requirement:

147 (i) that the state executive branch entity or political subdivision adopted or made  
148 effective before July 1, 2015; and

149 (ii) for which the state executive branch entity or political subdivision can demonstrate,

150 with substantial evidence, that the rule, ordinance, or requirement is necessary to protect an  
 151 individual from a condition likely to cause imminent injury or death.

152 (10) The Department of Health or the Department of Environmental Quality may  
 153 enforce a rule or requirement adopted before January 1, 2015.

154 (11) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (11)(b), a structure used solely in  
 155 conjunction with agriculture use, and not for human occupancy, or a structure that is no more  
 156 than 1,500 square feet and used solely for the type of sales described in Subsection  
 157 [59-12-104\(20\)](#), is exempt from the permit requirements of the State Construction Code.

158 (b) (i) Unless exempted by a provision other than Subsection (11)(a), a plumbing,  
 159 electrical, and mechanical permit may be required when that work is included in a structure  
 160 described in Subsection (11)(a).

161 (ii) Unless located in whole or in part in an agricultural protection area created under  
 162 Title 17, Chapter 41, Agriculture, Industrial, or Critical Infrastructure Materials Protection  
 163 Areas, a structure described in Subsection (11)(a) is not exempt from a permit requirement if  
 164 the structure is located on land that is:

- 165 (A) within the boundaries of a city or town, and less than five contiguous acres; or
- 166 (B) within a subdivision for which the county has approved a subdivision plat under  
 167 Title 17, Chapter 27a, Part 6, Subdivisions, and less than two contiguous acres.

168 (12) (a) As used in this Subsection (12):

169 (i) "Membrane-covered frame structure" means a nonpressurized building wherein the  
 170 structure is composed of a rigid framework to support a tensioned membrane that provides the  
 171 weather barrier.

172 (ii) "Remote yurt" means a membrane-covered frame structure that:

- 173 (A) is no larger than 710 square feet;
- 174 (B) is not used as a permanent residence;
- 175 (C) is located in an unincorporated county area that is not zoned for residential,  
 176 commercial, industrial, or agricultural use;
- 177 (D) does not have plumbing or electricity; ~~H~~→ **and**
- 177a (E) is set back at least 300 feet from any river, stream, lake, or other body of water;

177b **and**

178 ~~(E)~~ (F) ~~←H~~ registers with the local health department.

179 (b) A remote yurt is exempt from the State Construction Code including the permit  
 180 requirements of the State Construction Code.

181 Section 2. Section 15A-5-104 is enacted to read:

182 **15A-5-104. Exemptions from State Fire Code.**

183 (1) As used in this section, "remote yurt" means the same as that term is defined in  
184 Subsection 15A-1-204(12).

185 (2) A remote yurt is exempt from the requirements of the State Fire Code.

186 (3) An owner of a remote yurt shall ensure that a fire extinguisher is in the remote yurt.

187 Section 3. Section 19-5-125 is enacted to read:

188 **19-5-125. Yurt exemption.**

189 (1) As used in this section ~~H~~→ [~~,"remote]~~ :

189a **(a) "Backcountry waste containment and disposal system" means a pickle pail, rocket**  
189b **box, tube toilet, John-E partner, or similar container used to collect and carry out waste,**  
189c **including fecal matter.**

189d **(b) "Remote ~~H~~ yurt" means the same as that term is defined in**

190 Subsection 15A-1-204(12).

191 (2) A remote yurt is exempt from this chapter, rules made under this chapter, and local  
192 health department's jurisdiction over onsite wastewater disposal, except that the owner of a  
193 remote yurt shall ensure that an individual using the remote yurt uses a backcountry waste  
194 containment and ~~H~~→ [~~removal]~~ disposal ~~H~~ system ~~S~~→ **and the local health department may**  
194a **enforce the provisions of this section ~~S~~ .**