

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee

BILL: SB 960

INTRODUCER: Senator Bennett

SUBJECT: Liquefied Petroleum Gas

DATE: March 4, 2011

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Wiggins	Yeatman	EP	Pre-meeting
2.			CA	
3.			BC	
4.				
5.				
6.				

I. Summary:

The bill requires all state agencies to adopt standards relating to the separation distance between liquefied petroleum gas (LP) containers and structures, property lines, and sources of ignition, contained in the 2011 edition of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 58, also known as the Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code.

The bill amends sections 527.06 and 527.21 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 58, Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is an international nonprofit organization that was established in 1896 to reduce the risks and effects of fires by establishing building consensus codes.¹ The NFPA 58, also known as the Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code, applies to “the storage, handling, transportation, and use of LP-Gas[es],” which is defined by the code to mean “gasses at normal room temperature and atmospheric pressure [that] liquefy under moderate pressure and readily vaporize upon release of the pressure.”²

¹ National Fire Protection Association Website, *Overview*, available online at <http://www.nfpa.org/categoryList.asp?categoryID=495&URL=About%20NFPA/Overview> (last visited on March 4, 2011).

² National Fire Protection Association Website, *Document Scope of NFPA 58* available online at <http://www.nfpa.org/aboutthecodes/AboutTheCodes.asp?DocNum=58> (last visited on March 4, 2011).

Section 527.06(3), F.S., provides the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS), with the authority to adopt rules that are in substantial conformity with NFPA's published safety standards. Subsection (3), specifically provides that:

Rules in substantial conformity with the published standards of the National Fire Protection Association shall be deemed to be in substantial conformity with the generally accepted standards of safety concerning the same subject matter.

The NFPA has recently published the 2011 edition of the NFPA 58, Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code. As a result, DACS has filed a Notice of Rule Development (Rule 5F-11.002) to adopt the 2011 edition of the NFPA 58, Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code.³ State agencies that currently enforce the LP gas container separation distances, adopt changes in the NFPA safety codes as standards evolve and technology changes.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 amends 527.06, F.S., to require all state agencies to enforce the same LP gas container separation distances included in the 2011 version of NFPA 58.

Section 2 amends 527.21, F.S., to specify that the definition for propane is defined by the NFPA 58 Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code.

Section 3 provides that this act shall take effect July 1, 2011.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

³ Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, *Senate Bill 960 Fiscal Analysis* (Feb. 14, 2011)(on file with the Senate Committee on Community Affairs).

B. Private Sector Impact:

To the extent that the new code reduces set back requirements for propane tanks from buildings and sources of ignition, the private sector may save on construction costs.

C. Government Sector Impact:

All state agencies will be required to adopt the same NFPA 58 LP gas container separation requirements.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

According to DACS, the bill⁴ will inhibit state agencies from adopting future changes in NFPA safety codes even if revisions are needed to insure safety for gas container separation requirements.

VIII. Additional Information:**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

⁴ Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services staff analysis dated 2/14/11