



House Bill 7029

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE CERTIFICATION OF INDEPENDENT INSPECTORS AND
INSPECTION FIRMS TO PERFORM STATE BUILDING CODE INSPECTIONS**

Testimony of the Department of Administrative Services

Housing Committee

February 27, 2025

Senator Marx, Representative Felipe, Senator Sampson, Representative Scott, and distinguished members of the Housing Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on **House Bill 7029: An Act Concerning the Certification of Independent Inspectors and Inspection Firms to Perform State Building Code Inspections**.

House Bill 7029 requires the state building inspector and the Codes and Standards Committee to establish a certification program for independent inspection firms to perform inspections under the State Building Code for submission to a local building official. While we appreciate the legislation's intent to try to alleviate delays in the review and inspection processes, we have concerns with the legislation as drafted.

This proposal will have a significant fiscal impact on the Department of Administrative Services (DAS), which is not included in the governor's proposed FY26-FY27 budget. It would require the establishment of several new positions, including a manager, attorney, building officials, administrative and technical audit staff, and additional support from the DAS information technology and business offices. While the proposal indicates that a fee will be paid to the department, there is no guarantee that the monies collected would be sufficient to cover the full administrative costs due to known limitations in the supply of building officials nationally. This proposal could compound municipal recruitment and retention challenges if municipal building officials leave public service in favor of this private sector opportunity.

DAS understands the frustration municipalities can experience with delays in the review and inspection process, and we have efforts underway to increase the building official workforce and help alleviate delays. For example, we have proposed [Senate Bill 1320](#), which would broaden municipal authority to appoint acting building officials. This would help maintain continuity of services, improve customer experience and economic development, and prevent project delays when the permanent building official is out of office. We also have efforts underway to increase educational and professional pathways, and local and national reciprocity of building official qualifications.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and share our thoughts with the Committee. We are happy to continue conversations with the proponents of the bill to discuss other ways to help achieve the overall goals.