

International Existing Building Codes (IEBC)

LB 540 Passed by the State Legislature

New legislation has made the rehabilitation of older buildings easier by addressing conflicting, costly, and inflexible code requirements intended primarily for new construction. LB 540, introduced by Senator Sue Crawford, was passed by the Nebraska Legislature to update 2010 legislation which adopted the International Existing Building Code (IEBC) as part of the state building code. The scope of the IEBC covers repair, alteration, addition, and change of occupancy for existing buildings, while achieving appropriate levels of safety. Updated versions of the IEBC are now part of state building code.

This new law offers the following benefits to cities and the state:

- Allows local governments the authority to adopt the International Existing Building Code, if the jurisdiction chooses to do so.
- Allows alternatives to achieve life-safety standards, but does not supersede fire codes.
- Preserves and maintains existing building stock.
- Contributes to the revitalization of older neighborhoods and commercial districts.

And it benefits property owners:

- Reduces the cost of rehabilitation to property owners.
- Makes rehabilitation of existing buildings more feasible.

The Nebraska State Historical Society testified in favor of this legislation. It will add to the success of rehabilitating historic buildings and leverage investment in downtowns and neighborhoods.

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