

AIA SUPPORTS REJECTION OF SENATE AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 1048

After voting down an amendment that would align both the residential and commercial industry to international plumbing code standards, the Senate passed House Bill 1048 Wednesday, May 15.

The bill is scheduled for a concurrence vote on the House floor on May 21, and LABI supports rejection in order to send the bill to a conference committee.

As filed, **House Bill 1048** by Rep. Erich Ponti (R-Baton Rouge) adopts the International Plumbing Code (IPC) for the commercial construction industry and Part VII-Plumbing of the International Residential Code (IRC) for the home construction industry. The legislation also transfers plumbing code rule and regulation authority from the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) to the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Council (LSUCCC).

This bill simplifies construction codes, improves efficiency and streamlines the construction process. It also provides a cost savings for the consumer and improves consistency statewide.

The IPC is in use or adopted in all Gulf Coast states surrounding Louisiana and in 35 states, including major cities such as: New York City, Dallas/Fort Worth, and Washington D.C. The IPC is a nationally developed code that stays current with safe practices that are used nationwide. I-codes have long been progressive and always ensure uncompromising commitment to health and safety.

Louisiana loses business and jobs as a result of having a unique plumbing code. The last DHH revision of the state's plumbing code took 13 years. Our other state construction code updates take typically three years. Adoption of the IPC and the Part VII-Plumbing of the IRC opens the Louisiana marketplace to updated technologies.

The bill **does not** change licensing provisions for plumbers. The Plumbing Board of Louisiana will continue to have authority over the licensing of plumbers. Additionally, DHH will continue to enforce water supply through the Sanitary Code.

