Code Reviser's Statement on RCW 35.21.180

RCW 35.21.180 allows cities to adopt by reference "any printed code or compilation," rather than listing the entire code in an ordinance, as long as a physical copy is filed "for use and examination by the public, in the office of the city or town clerk of said city, or town prior to adoption thereof." Given that "printed" has been the word used in this section and its predecessors since 1935, and given that RCW 35.21.530 and its predecessors have referred to municipal codes as requiring a "typewritten or printed copy" since 1957, the most sensible construction is that these state laws expect a physical book version of anything adopted by reference; linking to an electronic version alone would not satisfy these RCW requirements.

Physical book copies of each code listed in this bill as having a corresponding Clerk File will be filed prior to adoption to comply with RCW 35.21.180. In the interim, links to online versions of codes adopted by reference are below:

- 2021 International Building Code (Attachment B) – https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/IBC2021P2
- 2023 National Electrical Code (Attachment C) – https://www.nfpa.org/codes-and-standards/nfpa-70-standard-development/70
- 2021 Washington State Energy Code (Attachment D) – https://sbcc.wa.gov/state-codes-regulations-guidelines/state-building-code/energy-code
- 2021 International Existing Building Code (Attachment E) – https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/IEBC2021P2
- 2021 International Fuel Gas Code (Attachment F) – https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/IFGC2021P2
- 2021 International Mechanical Code (Attachment G) – https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/IMC2021P3
- 2021 Uniform Plumbing Code, adopted and amended by chapter 51-56 WAC (Attachment H) – https://epubs.iapmo.org/2021/UPC/ and https://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=51-56&full=true
- 2021 International Residential Code (Attachment I) – https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/IRC2021P2

The adopted books should be the same printings linked to above; however, for the five International Codes, initial electronic documents used to create the attachments came from earlier printings supplied to Seattle by the International Code Council. Every effort has been made to update the initial files to current printings' language. In the event of a discrepancy in unamended code language, the filed books will control.