

# Long Island builders fight sprinkler law

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The [Long Island Builders Institute](#) has joined the [New York State Builders Association](#) to oppose a proposed mandate to install fire sprinklers in all new one- and two-family homes in the state.

The state's Code Council will meet Wednesday to update the residential building code and could vote to add the sprinkler requirement, which was adopted by the International Residential Code in 2009. Since then, 48 other states have either declined to adopt the mandate or passed legislation forbidding a mandate to install sprinklers in one and two-family homes, according to a statement from LIBI.

The builders group argues that the sprinkler requirement will be too costly and unnecessary, since numbers show a dramatic decrease in house fires, especially in newer homes.

Fire sprinklers will drive up the cost of housing for New York consumers by \$10,000 to \$15,000 for installation, and cost more for individuals not on public water, LIBI contends. This doesn't include maintenance and special circumstances, such as pressure boosters and water tanks.

"LIBI will always support stringent fire safety code changes when they make sense, such as hard-wired, battery-operated smoke alarms," LIBI CEO Mitch Pally said in the statement.

"However, as a society, we cannot afford to deny needed housing for the sake of new requirements without proven benefits. While they should remain an option for homeowners who choose them, fire sprinklers in single-family homes are expensive to install, can be difficult to maintain and do not represent a cost-effective safety improvement over smoke alarm systems."