



## PORTLAND BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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**To:** URM Policy Committee Members and Interested Parties  
**From:** Jonna Papaefthimiou, AICP  
**RE:** Summary of Changes for Revised Policy Committee Report  
**Date:** July 10, 2017

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A fifth draft of the URM Policy Committee report is now available, and has been posted on the bureau's website. It incorporates a number of suggestions received in response to the April 2017 draft.

The July report remains a draft. It contains changes proposed by the policy committee working group that have not been reviewed by the full committee. The full committee will review this draft at their July meeting and may make additional modifications.

### **The following revisions were made to the July policy committee report:**

- Proposes delaying portions of the retrofitting work until after sufficient financial supports for building owners are secured.
- Describes the program recently authorized under HB 311, which permits a local jurisdiction to offset the costs of seismic retrofitting by exempting a building from property taxes for up to fifteen years.
- Proposes that churches and non-profits be exempted from some retrofit requirements until financial supports are identified for private entities that do not pay taxes.
- Eliminates proposed expansion of FAR transfer to non-historic buildings, as this has proved infeasible.
- Proposes that a cost estimate be developed at the same time as the ASCE-41 assessment, so that the magnitude of additional financial supports required can be estimated citywide.
- Proposes that building owners be notified annually of their compliance status with any new rules, and that an additional notice be sent six months ahead of any deadline.
- Proposes that fines be waived for anyone who complies with the rules within six months of a missed requirement.
- Provides diagrams of the retrofit steps, to make the proposed requirements easier to visualize.

In addition, the report includes editorial changes to language throughout the document. Some sections are re-ordered or re-written to highlight supports rather than penalties, and to more strongly acknowledge potential impacts to property owners. Descriptions of the policy-making process are also simplified to draw focus to the final recommendations.