

**Chap. 1152.** AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING THE INSPECTION OF BUILDINGS AND QUALIFICATIONS OF CERTAIN INSPECTORS UNDER THE STATEWIDE HOUSING AND BUILDING CODE COMMISSION.

*Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to provide forthwith for certain changes in the law regulating building construction, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

*Be it enacted, etc., as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 3 of chapter 143 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out the first paragraph, as most recently amended by section 15 of chapter 802 of the acts of 1972, and inserting in place thereof the following three paragraphs: —

The chief executive officer of each city or town shall employ and designate an inspector of buildings or building commissioner as well as such other local inspectors as are reasonably necessary to assist the inspector of buildings or building commissioner to administer and enforce the state building code. The building commissioner or inspector of buildings shall be the administrative chief in a city or town responsible for administering and enforcing the state building code. Any additional persons employed by a city or town to assist the building commissioner or inspector of buildings in the performance of his duties shall be called local inspectors. The local inspector shall also be responsible for enforcing the state building code. The inspector of buildings or building commissioner shall report directly and be solely responsible to the person or public body that appointed him. Two or more cities or towns may combine and share expenses in the appointment of any building commissioner or inspector of buildings and local inspectors. If the board of selectmen of two or more towns so vote, such towns may enter into an agreement with the county commissioners of the county wherein such towns are located relative to the appointment and compensation of a building commissioner or inspector of buildings and local inspectors.

Each inspector of buildings or building commissioner shall have had at least five years of experience in the supervision of building construction or design or in the alternative a four year undergraduate degree in a field related to building construction or design. In addition, such persons shall have had a general knowledge of the quality and strength of building materials; a general knowledge of the accepted requirements for building construction, fire prevention, light, ventilation and safe exits; and a general knowledge of other equipment and materials essential for safety, comfort, and convenience of the occupants of a building or structure.

Each local inspector shall have had at least five years of experience in the supervision of building construction or design or in the alternative a two year associate degree in a field related to building construction or design. In addition, such persons shall