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STATE BUILDING PERMIT FEES SET FOR FIRST INCREASE IN 20 YEARS

(Salem) Fees charged for structural and mechanical building permits issued by the state Building Codes Division are slated to increase on July 1, 1999. This is the first increase in these fees since 1979. Money collected from the fees pays for inspections of structural and mechanical building projects. The Oregon Legislature approved the 30 percent increase early in June with the passage of SB 287.

The permit fee increase will affect consumers and builders directly only in those communities where the state operates an inspection program. Where cities or counties have chosen to operate building programs themselves, the municipality will need to adopt its own fee increase if it wishes to match the state fee schedule.

SB 287 also increased by two percent the surcharge that the state applies to structural, mechanical, plumbing, electrical, and manufactured home placement permits issued by cities or counties. The surcharge pays the cost of training and education programs, and partially defrays the cost of state inspections and administration of the uniform statewide building code. With the increase, the surcharge will rise from five percent to seven percent. In addition, the surcharge the state applies to RV park and manufactured home park permits will increase from four percent to six percent.

Local governments collect these surcharges and remit them to the state.

“The simple reality is that these fee increases are necessary to effectively administer the level of services that Oregon consumers, builders, and local governments need,” said Joseph Brewer, administrator of the Building Codes Division. “Fees adopted in 1979 just won’t support the requirements of a 1999 construction economy.”