



DEPARTMENT OF
CONSUMER
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SERVICES

NEWS **RELEASE**

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BUILDING PERMIT SURCHARGE TO PAY FOR TRI-COUNTY SERVICE CENTER

(Salem) Effective October 1, 1999 all building permits sold in Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington Counties will carry an additional one percent surcharge to offset the cost of a metro-area service center. The center and a 13 member tri-county building industry services board, to be appointed by the governor, were created by the 1999 legislature's passage of S.B. 512.

The center is intended to help improve service and efficiency in the metro area by ensuring uniform building code-related processes in the 27 local jurisdictions within these counties that provide building permit, plan review, and inspection services. The state Building Codes Division is now recruiting for a manager for the center, which it plans open for business by July 1 of next year.

A task force appointed by the 1997 legislature studied the building permit and inspection processes in the three counties and proposed S.B. 512. The task force included representatives of the construction industry, labor organizations, and government.

The surcharge will be collected by the local jurisdictions that issue the permits.

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