

Assembly Bill No. 3032

CHAPTER 308

An act to amend Sections 8875.8 and 8875.9 of the Government Code, relating to seismic safety.

[Approved by Governor August 24, 2004. Filed with Secretary of State August 25, 2004.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 3032, Yee. Seismic safety.

Existing law establishes a program within all cities and all counties and portions thereof located within seismic zone 4, as defined, to identify all potentially hazardous buildings and to establish a mitigation program for these buildings. The mitigation program may include, among other things, the adoption by ordinance of a hazardous buildings program, measures to strengthen buildings, and the application of structural standards necessary to provide for life safety above current code requirements. On or before April 1, 1993, any owner of a building located in seismic zone 4 who has received notice that the building is constructed of unreinforced masonry is required to post in a conspicuous place a specified sign at the entrance of the building, unless the walls are nonload bearing with steel or concrete frame. The Seismic Safety Commission is required to coordinate the earthquake related responsibilities of government agencies imposed by the above-described provisions to ensure compliance with these provisions.

This bill would, with an exception for an owner of a building subject to the above-described sign requirement who is in compliance with the requirement on and after December 31, 2004, revise the sign requirement, as specified, and would exempt a building that has been brought into compliance with an adopted hazardous buildings ordinance or mitigation program from the sign requirement. It would also authorize a local jurisdiction to authorize the posting of a sign regarding the improvements made to the building.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 8875.8 of the Government Code is amended to read:

8875.8. (a) An owner who has received actual or constructive notice that a building located in seismic zone 4 is constructed of unreinforced masonry shall post in a conspicuous place at the entrance



of the building, on a sign not less than 5" × 7" the following statement, printed in not less than 30-point bold type:

“This is an unreinforced masonry building. Unreinforced masonry buildings may be unsafe in the event of a major earthquake.”

(b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), unless the owner of a building subject to subdivision (a) is in compliance with that subdivision on and after December 31, 2004, an owner who has received actual or constructive notice that a building located in seismic zone 4 is constructed of unreinforced masonry and has not been retrofitted in accordance with an adopted hazardous building ordinance or mitigation program shall post in a conspicuous place at the entrance of the building, on a sign not less than 8" × 10" the following statement, with the first two words printed in not less than 50-point bold type and the remainder in at least 30-point type:

“Earthquake Warning. This is an unreinforced masonry building. You may not be safe inside or near unreinforced masonry buildings during an earthquake.”

(c) Notice of the obligation to post a sign, as required by subdivisions (a) and (b), shall be included in the Commercial Property Owner’s Guide to Earthquake Safety.

SEC. 2. Section 8875.9 of the Government Code is amended to read:

8875.9. Section 8875.8 shall not apply to either one of the following:

(a) Unreinforced masonry construction if the walls are nonload bearing with steel or concrete frame.

(b) A building that has been retrofitted in accordance with an adopted hazardous buildings ordinance or mitigation program, in which case the local jurisdiction may authorize the owner to post in a conspicuous place at the entrance of the building, on a sign not less than 5" × 7" the following statement, printed in not less than 30-point bold type:

“This building has been improved in accordance with the seismic safety standards of a local building ordinance that is applicable to unreinforced masonry buildings.”

