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DIVISION OF CODES AND STANDARDS  
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**INFORMATION BULLETIN 2003-01 (EH)**

**TO: Employee Housing Local Enforcement Agencies  
Employee Housing Operators  
Employee Housing Interested Parties  
City and County Building Officials  
Division Staff**

**SUBJECT: 2002 LEGISLATIVE CHANGES**

This Information Bulletin summarizes the legislative changes to the Planning and Zoning Law, (California Government Code, Title 7, Division 1, commencing with section 65000) brought about by the 2002 legislative session. These amendments may have impact on the development of employee housing facilities throughout California. The changes became effective January 1, 2003.

**Chapter 147 of the 2002 statutes (SB 1721, Soto) amends §65589.5 of the Government Code.**

- Due to the lack of affordable housing in urban areas, existing law requires local agencies to make specified findings before disapproving or conditionally approving housing development projects for very low, low- or moderate-income households. This bill now applies these same provisions to farmworker housing which may include employee housing facilities.
- This bill broadens a current anti-NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) law to include the provision that a local agency shall not disapprove, or render infeasible, a farmworker housing project through the use of design review standards unless certain conditions, specified in the current statute, are met.
- The new amendments now include farmworker housing as being eligible to pursue court action if the required specified findings are not made, or the local agency's decision is inconsistent with those findings and the findings are not supported by substantial evidence.

This summary of legislative changes is not represented to be a complete digest of all new laws effecting persons regulated by planning and zoning or employee housing laws. The complete text of this law can be reviewed through the Official California Legislative Information website at: [www.leginfo.ca.gov](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov).

For questions regarding employee housing requirements, please contact our Employee Housing Program at (916) 445-9471.

  
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