



AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING MUNICIPAL ZONING LAWS; REQUIRING CERTAIN CITIES TO ALLOW THE USE OF DUPLEX HOUSING IN ZONING REGULATIONS; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; AMENDING SECTIONS 76-2-304 AND 76-2-309, MCA; AND PROVIDING A DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 76-2-304, MCA, is amended to read:

"76-2-304. Criteria and guidelines for zoning regulations. (1) Zoning regulations must be:

- (a) made in accordance with a growth policy; and
- (b) designed to:
 - (i) secure safety from fire and other dangers;
 - (ii) promote public health, public safety, and the general welfare; and
 - (iii) facilitate the adequate provision of transportation, water, sewerage, schools, parks, and other

public requirements.

(2) In the adoption of zoning regulations, the municipal governing body shall consider:

- (a) reasonable provision of adequate light and air;
- (b) the effect on motorized and nonmotorized transportation systems;
- (c) promotion of compatible urban growth;
- (d) the character of the district and its peculiar suitability for particular uses; and
- (e) conserving the value of buildings and encouraging the most appropriate use of land throughout

the jurisdictional area.

(3) In a city with a population of at least 5,000 residents, duplex housing must be allowed as a permitted use on a lot where a single-family residence is a permitted use, and zoning regulations that apply to the development or use of duplex housing may not be more restrictive than zoning regulations that are

applicable to single-family residences.

(4) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Duplex housing" means a parcel or lot with two dwelling units that are designed for residential occupancy by not more than two family units living independently from each other.

(b) "Family unit" means:

(i) a single person living or residing in a dwelling or place of residence; or

(ii) two or more persons living together or residing in the same dwelling or place of residence.

(c) "Single-family residence" has the meaning provided in 70-24-103."

Section 2. Section 76-2-309, MCA, is amended to read:

"76-2-309. Conflict with other laws. (1) Wherever the regulations made under authority of this part require a greater width or size of yards, courts, or other open spaces; require a lower height of building or less number of stories; require a greater percentage of lot to be left unoccupied; or impose other higher standards than are required in any other statute or local ordinance or regulation, the provisions of the regulations made under authority of this part ~~shall~~must govern.

(2) Wherever the provisions of any other statute or local ordinance or regulation require a greater width or size of yards, courts, or other open spaces; require a lower height of building or a less number of stories; require a greater percentage of lot to be left unoccupied; or impose other higher standards than are required by the regulations made under authority of this part, except for restrictions provided in 76-2-304(3), the provisions of ~~such~~the statute or local ordinance or regulation ~~shall~~must govern."

Section 3. Effective date. [This act] is effective January 1, 2024.

- END -

I hereby certify that the within bill,
SB 323, originated in the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate

President of the Senate

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2023.

Speaker of the House

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2023.

SENATE BILL NO. 323

INTRODUCED BY J. TREBAS, C. KNUDSEN, C. HINKLE, M. HOPKINS, K. BOGNER, D. ZOLNIKOV

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