
By: **Delegates Haynes, Kelley, Kirk, Paige, Ramirez, and Taylor**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2005

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Fire Safety - High-Rise Buildings - Individuals Confined to Wheelchairs**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring owners of residential high-rise buildings to give
4 priority to certain individuals when renting certain units in the building; and
5 generally relating to fire safety in high-rise buildings.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
7 Article - Public Safety
8 Section 9-401(a) and (b)
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2003 Volume and 2004 Supplement)

11 BY adding to
12 Article - Public Safety
13 Section 9-405
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2003 Volume and 2004 Supplement)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
17 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article - Public Safety**

19 9-401.

20 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

21 (b) (1) "High-rise building" means a building for human occupancy that is:

22 (i) four or more stories above grade level; or

23 (ii) over 45 feet in height.

24 (2) "High-rise building" does not include:

1 (i) a structure or building used exclusively for open air parking; or

2 (ii) a building used exclusively for agricultural purposes.

3 9-405.

4 FOR FIRE SAFETY PURPOSES, THE OWNER OF A RESIDENTIAL HIGH-RISE
5 BUILDING SHALL GIVE PRIORITY TO INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE CONFINED TO
6 WHEELCHAIRS WHEN RENTING UNITS ON THE FIRST FIVE FLOORS OF THE
7 HIGH-RISE BUILDING.

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
9 October 1, 2005.