

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2012 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 247

(Delegate Myers, *et al.*)

Economic Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**State Plumbing Code - Adoption of International Code Council Standards**

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This bill authorizes the State Board of Plumbing to adopt standards of the International Code Council (ICC) in the State Plumbing Code and include ICC standards in its annual review of new and existing standards for water conserving appliances, devices, fittings, and fixtures.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill is procedural in nature and has no effect on State finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Plumbing fixtures, or other plumbing devices, must meet standards established in the State Plumbing Code or any applicable local plumbing code. The National Standard Plumbing Code (NSPC) is incorporated by reference as the State plumbing code and is updated every three to six years to reflect updated industry practices.

The board may adopt regulations to amend the State Plumbing Code and may adopt standards of the American National Standards Institute or any other nationally recognized organization. State regulations currently incorporate by reference the 2006 NSPC Illustrated and the 2007 supplement.

If the board finds that water conserving appliances, devices, fittings, and fixtures conform to American National Standards Institute standards or any other national standard and is readily available at a reasonable cost, the board must amend the State Plumbing Code to (1) incorporate the standards for and require use of the item; and (2) require the use of a water supply system and a drainage and venting system that are designed based on the hydraulic requirements of the required item. Notwithstanding the cost or availability of the item, the board may allow the installation of such an item, subject to the same water supply, drainage and venting system requirements.

A county must enforce the State Plumbing Code or adopt and enforce a local plumbing code that meets or exceeds the minimum standards of the State Plumbing Code. The board must enforce the State Plumbing Code in a county unless the board determines that the county is adequately enforcing the State Plumbing Code or a local plumbing code that meets or exceeds the minimum standards of the State Plumbing Code.

**Background:** ICC was established in 1994 as a nonprofit organization dedicated to developing a single set of comprehensive and coordinated national model construction codes. The International Plumbing Code developed by ICC is adopted at the state or local level in 34 states plus Washington, DC.

The State Board of Plumbing is housed within the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing at the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation. Maryland statute sets out three purposes for the board: (1) to protect the integrity of the potable water supply; (2) to provide for the efficient and safe discharge of storm drainage and sanitary drainage; and (3) to ensure that qualified individuals carry out the board's charge.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** The International Code Council; Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 6, 2012  
ncs/mcr

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