



# MARYLAND BUILDING OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 157 Sykesville, Md. 21784

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February 4, 2020

House Environment and Transportation Committee

Chairman Kumar P. Barve

House office Building Room 251

6 Bladen Street

Annapolis, MD 21401

To Chairman and Fellow Committee Members:

The Board of Directors of the Maryland Building Officials Association would like to submit a few items for consideration regarding HB153. This is a significant bill that could negatively affect many industries for years to come. We have been working with the Department of labor on an amendment to change the 36-month time frame for the State to adopt to 24 months which I believe they are bringing forward. Please consider the following items during your deliberations:

- 1) The International Code Council is currently on a 36-month cycle for publishing up to date codes. This allows new practices and advancements within the construction industry to be incorporated into the new code. This also allows for code issues to be addressed much quicker. These code changes are thoroughly vetted through a consensus process that includes all stakeholders before they are approved to go into the code.
- 2) Insurance organizations that review building departments throughout the state, are rating jurisdictions based on adoption of the latest updated codes. If older codes are used it can increase insurance rates to citizens throughout the state.
- 3) If the state goes to a longer cycle, some jurisdictions will want to stay up to date with current codes, and some may not, which will create differences in Editions used throughout the State. This will be difficult on businesses doing construction throughout the state. Design teams prepare drawings based on the latest codes and standards adopted at the national level but may have to prepare different sets of drawings based upon the code editions that are used within a specific jurisdiction. Overall this could become very costly for the businesses to do this.

- 4) If there is a concern for projects being substantially designed when a new code is adopted, this can be easily taken into consideration. For example, some jurisdictions, allows for a six -month adjustment when new codes are adopted for projects to meet the latest criteria and are permitted to submit under the previous code.

We want to thank you in advance for considering the items above as the decision on HB153 is being considered. If we can be of any assistance or provide further clarification, please feel free to reach out.

Sincerely,

Maryland Building Officials Association