



Shaping Tomorrow's
Built Environment Today

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M. Dennis Knight
2024-2025 ASHRAE President

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The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

January 31, 2025

Re: HB 339, "Real Property - Residential Rental Apartments - Air-Conditioning Requirements"

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

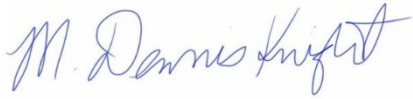
I am writing on behalf of ASHRAE regarding House Bill 339, "Real Property - Residential Rental Apartments - Air-Conditioning Requirements." ASHRAE, a not-for-profit organization founded in 1894, is a professional and technical society that focuses on building systems, energy efficiency, indoor air quality, refrigeration and sustainability. ASHRAE has over 54,000 members, including over 1,000 in Maryland. **ASHRAE supports the inclusion of ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 55-2023, *Thermal Environmental Conditions for Human Occupancy* and the reference to ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 90.1-2022, *Energy Efficiency for Sites and Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings* in this bill, and encourages you to vote in favor of HB 339.**

HB 339 would require air conditioning be provided for residential rental units that meets the acceptable temperature ranges that are established in ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 55-2023, *Thermal Environmental Conditions for Human Occupancy*. This standard describes the specific requirements and methods for achieving satisfactory thermal conditions, including temperature and humidity, for the substantial majority of occupants within a space. It is based on the best available science from experts on building design as well as day-to-day building operation. The most recent (2023) edition includes sections with specific guidance for designing, evaluating and adjusting HVAC systems to meet the standard. HB 339 also includes a definition from ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 90.1-2022, *Energy Efficiency for Sites and Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings*, which is referenced in order to clarify that the bill's requirements would apply to newly constructed units, and to units in apartment buildings that have undergone structural and systemic alterations. **This bill will help to provide apartment residents with a healthy, safe and comfortable indoor environment, which is an essential part of ASHRAE's vision**

of creating a healthy and sustainable built environment for all.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or have your staff contact GovAffairs@ashrae.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M. Dennis Knight". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" and "K".

Dennis Knight
ASHRAE President 2024-2025