

HOUSE BILL 221

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E4

1999 Regular Session  
9lr0041

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By: **Chairman, Environmental Matters Committee (Departmental - State  
Police, Dept. of)**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 1999

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 2, 1999

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Smoke Control Systems in High-Rise Buildings - Obsolete Provisions -**  
3 **Repealed**

4 FOR the purpose of repealing obsolete requirements for smoke control systems in  
5 high-rise buildings.

6 BY repealing

7 Article 38A - Fires and Investigations

8 Section 51, 51A, and 52

9 Annotated Code of Maryland

10 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF

12 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

13 **Article 38A - Fires and Investigations**

14 [51.

15 (a) Any building planned for construction, but not under construction as of  
16 July 1, 1974, shall be constructed in conformance with this subtitle, except if prior  
17 approval of plans has been obtained from the appropriate governmental agency. All  
18 other high-rise buildings constructed after July 1, 1974, shall comply with the  
19 provisions of this subtitle.

20 (b) The provisions of this subtitle shall be in addition to any existing safety  
21 fire laws, and nothing contained herein shall be construed as limiting the authority of

1 the State Fire Prevention Commission or State Fire Marshal to act under existing  
2 safety fire laws. Penalties for violation of the provisions of this subtitle shall be in  
3 accordance with § 13 of this article.]

4 [51A.

5 Every high-rise building on which construction begins after July 1, 1983, shall  
6 be protected by a smoke control system: (1) designed and constructed in accordance  
7 with accepted engineering practices and (2) in compliance with standards developed  
8 by and jointly promulgated as regulations by the Department of Housing and  
9 Community Development and the State Fire Prevention Commission and to be  
10 enforced by the State Fire Marshal, and in Baltimore City, by the Chief of the Fire  
11 Department.]

12 [52.

13 The State Fire Prevention Commission or State Fire Marshal and in Baltimore  
14 City the board of fire commissioners and the Chief of the Fire Department is  
15 authorized to make exceptions to the provisions of this subtitle only when there is  
16 clear evidence that alternate provisions will provide equivalent reasonable safety to  
17 life, as required by the provisions of this subtitle.]

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take  
19 effect October 1, 1999.