

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE  
Revised

Senate Bill 695 (Senator Stoltzfus)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

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**Maryland Building Performance Standards - Time Limits**

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This bill extends the time in which the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) must incorporate subsequent versions of the National Building Code issued by the Building Officials and Code Administrators International, Inc. (BOCA) into the Maryland Building Performance Standards. The bill also extends until August 1, 2001 the date on which the Maryland Building Performance Standards shall apply to counties and municipalities that have adopted the standard building code issued by the Southern Building Code Congress International, Inc.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill would not significantly alter DHCD operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** None. Local jurisdictions are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the Maryland Building Performance Standards and are required, under current law, to periodically update the Maryland Building Performance Standards as they are updated.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**Background:** The current Maryland Building Performance Standards Act, enacted in 1993, requires DHCD to adopt the most recent edition of the BOCA National Building Code as the Maryland Building Performance Standards (MBPS) within nine months of its issue date. In addition, the current Act requires those jurisdictions now using the Southern Standard

Building Code (SBC) to adopt the BOCA Building Code by August 1, 1999.

Currently, the three model code groups in the U.S. (BOCA is one of these three model code groups) are in the process of producing one national model building code called the International Building Code. If this bill is adopted, it is anticipated that DHCD will adopt this new code in calendar 2000, since the BOCA National Building Code will no longer be available.

This bill provides additional time for the department and those jurisdictions now using the SBC to adopt the new International Building Code. This will save time for the department and those SBC jurisdictions.

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**Information Source(s):** Department of Housing and Community Development; Department of General Services; Baltimore City, Frederick, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties; Town of Thurmont; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 10, 1999  
Inc/jr Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 31, 1999

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