

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 281 (Frederick County Delegation)

Environmental Matters

Economic and Environmental Affairs

Frederick County - County Commissioners - Municipal Fire Codes

This bill repeals the requirement that any fire prevention code, ordinance, or resolution adopted by the County Commissioners of Frederick County applies within each municipal corporation within the county.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: No fiscal effect on the Frederick County government. If a municipality in Frederick County chooses to establish its own fire code, the Frederick County Fire Marshal would offset any new costs associated with enforcement of a municipality's fire code with higher fees to the municipality.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal. Small businesses in Frederick County may incur minimal additional costs to meet fire prevention codes if a municipality in Frederick County chooses to adopt a more stringent fire prevention code than currently adopted by the county.

Analysis

Current Law: Any fire prevention code, ordinance, or resolution adopted by the County Commissioners of Frederick County applies within each municipal corporation in the county.

Background: The State of Maryland has a fire code that applies in the entire State. The Office of the State Fire Marshal of the Maryland State Police is responsible for enforcing

the State's fire code. Maryland counties and municipalities may adopt their own fire code only if it is more stringent than the State's fire code. The fire code of Frederick County has been amended to include more stringent provisions regarding the issuance of use and occupancy permits. The Frederick County Fire Marshal is responsible for fire code inspections in the county.

There are 12 municipal corporations in Frederick County, none of which have their own fire code due to current law.

Municipalities in Frederick County

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>Population</u>
Brunswick	6,071
Burkittsville	225
Emmitsburg	2,183
Frederick City	46,227
Middletown	2,188
Mount Airy	5,085
Myersville	524
New Market	3,444
Rosemont	309
Thurmont	3,228
Walkersville	5,019
Woodsboro	605

Municipalities in Maryland that have their own fire code are Annapolis, Cumberland, Gaithersburg, Hagerstown, Ocean City, and Rockville. Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Frederick, Montgomery, Prince George's, and Worcester counties have their own fire code.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Frederick County, Department of State Police (Office of the State Fire Marshal), Department of Legislative Services

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