

SB0792/524936/1

BY: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 792

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 3, after “Visitability” insert “– Study”; strike beginning with “altering” in line 4 down through “requirements” in line 11 and substitute “requiring the Department of Housing and Community Development to study minimum standards for visitability for newly constructed single-family dwellings in accordance with certain requirements; requiring the Department to report certain findings and recommendations to certain committees on or before a certain date”; in line 11, after “term;” insert “providing for the termination of this Act;”; strike lines 13 through 22, inclusive; in line 24, strike “the Laws of Maryland read as follows”; and strike line 25 in its entirety.

On pages 2 and 3, strike beginning with line 1 on page 2 through line 27 on page 3 and substitute:

“(a) For purposes of this Act, “visitability” means basic accessibility that enables an individual who is mobility-limited, whether by permanent or temporary disability or illness or by aging, to visit the residence of another individual.

(b) (1) The Department of Housing and Community Development shall study minimum standards for visitability.

(2) The Department shall solicit the views of representatives from the following organizations when studying minimum standards for visitability:

(i) local governments and municipalities;

(ii) architects;

(Over)

- (iii) homebuilders;
- (iv) realtors;
- (v) individuals with disabilities; and
- (vi) senior citizens.

(c) The Department shall study:

(1) whether it is advisable for the Department to adopt, as a modification of the Maryland Building Performance Standards, minimum standards for visitability in the design and construction of newly constructed single-family dwellings;

(2) whether modifications of the Maryland Building Performance Standards should include provisions for the Department or a local jurisdiction to exempt a homebuilder from compliance with minimum standards for visitability; and

(3) whether minimum standards for visitability for a newly constructed single-family dwelling should include specific:

- (i) entrance and exit requirements;
- (ii) bathroom location and construction requirements; and
- (iii) doorway, hallway, and passageway requirements.

(d) On or before December 31, 2008, the Department shall:

(1) determine whether to adopt, as a modification of the Maryland Building Performance Standards, minimum standards for visitability in the design and construction of newly constructed single-family dwellings; and

(2) report its findings and recommendations to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Environmental Matters Committee, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article.”;

in line 29, strike “October” and substitute “June”; and in the same line, after “2008.” insert “It shall remain in effect for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31, 2009, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.”.