

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 211 (Senator Young, *et al.*)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

State Plumbing Code - Adoption of International Code Council Standards

This bill authorizes the State Board of Plumbing to adopt standards of the International Code Council (ICC) in the State Plumbing Code and include ICC standards in its annual review of new and existing standards for water-conserving appliances, devices, fittings, and fixtures.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill is clarifying in nature and has no effect on State finances, as it does not require the State Board of Plumbing to amend the State Plumbing Code.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Plumbing fixtures, or other plumbing devices, must meet standards established in the State Plumbing Code or any applicable local plumbing code. The National Standard Plumbing Code (NSPC) is incorporated by reference as the State Plumbing Code and is updated every three to six years to reflect updated industry practices.

The board may adopt regulations to amend the State Plumbing Code and may adopt standards of the American National Standards Institute or any other nationally recognized organization. State regulations currently incorporate by reference the 2012 NSPC Illustrated, with various modifications.

If the board finds that a water-conserving appliance, device, fitting, or fixture conforms to American National Standards Institute standards or any other national standard and is readily available at a reasonable cost, the board must amend the State Plumbing Code to (1) incorporate the standards for and require use of the item and (2) require the use of a water supply system and a drainage and venting system that are designed based on the hydraulic requirements of that item. Notwithstanding the cost or availability of the item, the board may allow the installation of such an item, subject to the same water supply, drainage, and venting system requirements.

A county must enforce the State Plumbing Code or adopt and enforce a local plumbing code that meets or exceeds the minimum standards of the State Plumbing Code. The board must enforce the State Plumbing Code in a county unless the board determines that the county is adequately enforcing the State Plumbing Code or a local plumbing code that meets or exceeds the minimum standards of the State Plumbing Code.

Background: ICC was established in 1994 as a nonprofit organization dedicated to developing a single set of comprehensive and coordinated national model construction codes. The International Plumbing Code developed by ICC is adopted at the state level in more than two-thirds of states.

The State Board of Plumbing is housed within the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing at the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation. The board has three statutorily established purposes: (1) to protect the integrity of the potable water supply; (2) to provide for the efficient and safe discharge of storm drainage and sanitary drainage; and (3) to ensure that qualified individuals carry out the board's charge.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 361 of 2014 received an unfavorable report from the House Economic Matters Committee. HB 247 of 2012 passed the House but received an unfavorable report from the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee.

Cross File: HB 169 (Delegate Afzali) - Economic Matters.

Information Source(s): Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; International Code Council; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 11, 2015
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