

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader

House Bill 823

(Delegate Stein, *et al.*)

Environment and Transportation

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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State Fire Marshal - Sprinkler Systems Enforcement

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This bill requires the State Fire Marshal to enforce any requirements relating to the installation of automatic sprinkler systems in new one- and two-family dwellings.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The State Fire Marshal can implement the bill with existing resources.

**Local Effect:** The bill is not anticipated to materially affect local operations or finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law/Background:** The State Fire Marshal must enforce all laws of the State relating to, among other things, the installation and maintenance of *all* kinds of equipment intended to control, detect, or extinguish fire.

The State Fire Prevention Commission within the Department of State Police must adopt comprehensive regulations as a State Fire Prevention Code. The commission adopted by reference, subject to some exceptions noted in the regulations, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1 Fire Code (2018 Edition), the NFPA 101 Life Safety Code (2018 Edition), and some requirements of the International Building Code as the State Fire Prevention Code.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal advises that it does not currently exercise the authority provided in current law to enforce requirements relating to the installation of automatic

sprinkler systems in new one- and two-family dwellings and believes such authority should be made more explicit.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** SB 746 (Senator Beidle, *et al.*) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

**Information Source(s):** Baltimore City; Harford, Montgomery, and Wicomico counties; Maryland Association of Counties; Maryland Municipal League; Department of State Police; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 21, 2020  
rh/mcr Revised - Clarification - February 24, 2020  
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