

Chapter 385

(House Bill 222)

AN ACT concerning

**Public Safety – Fuel Gas Piping Systems and Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing
~~for Fuel Gas Piping Systems – Requirements and Prohibitions – Prohibitions~~
and Study**

FOR the purpose of prohibiting the sale, offer for sale, transfer, or distribution of non-arc-resistant jacketed corrugated stainless steel tubing ~~that does not meet certain qualifications; requiring certain tubing used;~~ establishing a certain civil penalty for a person who uses certain tubing in the construction of fuel gas piping systems in certain buildings ~~to meet certain qualifications; requiring~~ *the Maryland Department of Labor and the Office of the State Fire Marshal* to study and make recommendations related to preventing the fire hazards associated with commonly used fuel gas piping systems, including gas piping and corrugated stainless steel tubing, in residential and commercial buildings; and generally relating to fuel gas piping systems, gas piping, and corrugated stainless steel tubing.

BY adding to

Article – Business Regulation
 Section 19–108
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2024 Replacement Volume)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Public Safety
 Section 12–206
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Business Regulation

19–108.

(A) A PERSON MAY NOT SELL, OFFER FOR SALE, TRANSFER, OR DISTRIBUTE NON-ARC-RESISTANT JACKETED CORRUGATED STAINLESS STEEL TUBING ~~THAT:~~

~~(1) DOES NOT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LC1027 STANDARD DESCRIBED IN THE MOST RECENT EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUEL AND GAS CODE ISSUED BY THE INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL; OR~~

~~(2) HAS NOT BEEN PROVEN TO WITHSTAND AT LEAST 36 COULOMBS OF ELECTRICAL ARCING CHARGE BY AN ELECTRICAL ARCING TEST.~~

(B) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS SUBJECT TO A CIVIL PENALTY NOT EXCEEDING \$1,000.

Article – Public Safety

12–206.

(a) This section applies to any building that uses fuel gas piping systems not subject to Title 49, Part 192 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

(b) ~~Non-arc-resistant jacketed~~ ~~ONLY~~ corrugated stainless steel tubing ~~THAT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LC1027 STANDARD DESCRIBED IN THE MOST RECENT EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUEL AND GAS CODE ISSUED BY THE INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL OR HAS BEEN PROVEN TO WITHSTAND AT LEAST 36 COULOMBS OF ELECTRICAL ARCING CHARGE BY AN ELECTRICAL ARCING TEST~~ may ~~not~~ be used in:

(1) the new construction of a customer-owned natural gas or liquefied propane piping system in a building;

(2) a natural gas or liquefied propane piping system in a renovated property if the renovation affects more than 50% of the total square footage of the property; or

(3) a natural gas or liquefied propane piping system that requires the addition of a new gas line to the gas piping system.

(C) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS SUBJECT TO A CIVIL PENALTY NOT EXCEEDING \$1,000.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) The Maryland Department of Labor and the Office of the State Fire Marshal shall conduct a study and make recommendations related to preventing the fire hazards associated with commonly used fuel gas piping systems, including gas piping and corrugated stainless steel tubing, in residential and commercial buildings.

(b) In conducting the study and making the recommendations, the Department and the Office shall:

(1) study and compare the fire hazard risks of different types of fuel gas piping systems, including gas piping and corrugated stainless steel tubing;

(2) study the likelihood of fuel gas piping systems, including gas piping and corrugated stainless steel tubing, causing a fire in a residential or commercial building following a direct or indirect lightning strike;

(3) analyze the effectiveness of existing standards and requirements in the State related to fuel gas piping systems, including gas piping and corrugated stainless steel tubing, and identify areas for improvement;

(4) analyze and identify the best practices for state and local legislative, regulatory, and building code standards for fuel gas piping systems, including gas piping and corrugated stainless steel tubing;

(5) identify potential legislative or regulatory changes in the State to prevent or minimize the fire hazards associated with fuel gas piping systems, including gas piping and corrugated stainless steel tubing, § 12–206 of the Public Safety Article, and if enacted by S.B. 175 or H.B. 222 of 2025, § 19–108 of the Business Regulation Article;

(6) determine what industry standards or requirements are necessary to prevent or minimize the fire hazards associated with fuel gas piping systems, including gas piping and corrugated stainless steel tubing;

(7) determine what standards or requirements are necessary, if any, to address aggravating factors that may reasonably contribute to the failure or malfunctioning of fuel gas piping systems, including gas piping and corrugated stainless steel tubing, and create a fire hazard, such as improper installation or grounding;

(8) assess the prevalence of non-arc-resistant jacketed corrugated stainless steel tubing in residential and commercial buildings and the fire hazards that this presents; and

(9) assess the feasibility of implementing the standards and requirements identified in this study.

(c) In carrying out the study, *the Department and* the Office shall consult with:

(1) the State Fire Prevention Commission;

(2) ~~the Maryland Department of Labor;~~

~~(3)~~ local government entities responsible for residential or commercial gas fitting inspections; and

~~(4)~~ (3) manufacturers of fuel gas piping systems and corrugated stainless steel tubing.

(d) (1) On or before December 1, 2025, the Department and the Office shall submit an interim report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment and the House Environment and Transportation Committee.

(2) On or before September 1, 2026, the Department and the Office shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment and the House Environment and Transportation Committee.

SECTION ~~2~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect ~~October 1, 2027~~ June 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor, May 6, 2025.