

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 222 (Delegate Stein)
Environment and Transportation

**Public Safety - Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing for Fuel Gas Piping Systems -
Requirements and Prohibitions**

This bill requires that only corrugated stainless steel tubing (CSST) that meets the requirements of the LC1027 standard described in the most recent edition of the International Fuel and Gas Code (IFGC) issued by the International Code Council (ICC) *or* has been proven to withstand at least 36 coulombs of electrical arcing charge by an electrical arcing test may 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, under specified conditions; or (3) a natural gas or liquefied propane piping system that requires the addition of a new gas line to the piping system. The bill also prohibits the sale, transfer, or distribution of CSST that does not meet those requirements. A person who violates either of the bill's provisions is subject to a civil penalty of up to \$1,000. **The bill takes effect October 1, 2027.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: No effect on total capital construction spending, which is established annually through the capital budget process. However, the cost of some State renovation projects may increase to comply with the bill's requirements. To the extent that the cost of individual projects increases, less funding is available for other projects. Potential minimal increase in general fund revenues due to the bill's penalty provision.

Local Effect: No effect on total capital construction spending for local governments. However, the cost of some local government renovation projects may increase to comply with the bill's requirements. To the extent that the cost of individual projects increases, less funding is available for other projects. No effect on revenues.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful.

Analysis

Current Law:

Natural Gas and Liquefied Propane Piping Systems in Construction

Chapter 140 of 2022 established that, for any building using fuel gas piping systems not subject to Title 49, Part 192 of the Code of Federal Regulations, non-arc-resistant jacketed corrugated stainless steel tubing 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.

Regulation of Gas Lines – Generally

The Board of Plumbers within the Maryland Department of Labor (MD Labor) incorporates by reference the 2018 IFGC in regulation. Title 49, Part 192 of the Code of Federal Regulations specifies the minimum federal safety standards for gas pipeline facilities and the transportation of natural and other gas by pipeline. Both the IFGC and federal regulations include standards for the installation and maintenance of gas piping systems.

State/Local Fiscal Effect: The bill's requirement that only CSST that meets LC1027 standards or can withstand at least 36 coulombs of electrical arcing can be used for any renovation that affects at least 50% of a building's total square footage may increase the cost of some renovation projects. Under the bill, any renovation that affects at least 50% of the total square footage must replace all piping in the building, which may involve more demolition and installation of new piping than would otherwise be done. Projects of that scope may already plan to replace all piping, so not all projects are affected. However, to the extent that they are affected, the cost of such renovations may increase substantially to install new piping not required under current law.

General fund revenues may increase minimally due to the bill's penalty provision for cases heard in the District Court.

Enforcement activities by local governments can be incorporated into existing building inspections using existing budgeted resources.

Small Business Effect: Any small business that sells or installs CSST must discard their existing supply of piping that do not meet the requirements established by the bill and

procure new piping materials. However, as the bill has a delayed effective date of October 1, 2027, it is assumed that any existing stock can be used or returned to the manufacturer for a refund by that date.

Additional Comments: MD Labor and the State Fire Marshal advise that the LC1027 standard specified under the bill does not exist in any edition of the IFGC. MD Labor also advises that the specified LC1027 standard is referenced under the ICC Evaluation Service, which provides technical evaluations of building products, components, methods, and materials, but does not set standards or require the use of specified materials. MD Labor further advises that there are limited suppliers of CSST that meets the bill's standards.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See SB 586 and HB 503 of 2024.

Designated Cross File: SB 175 (Senators Lewis Young and Brooks) - Education, Energy, and the Environment.

Information Source(s): Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Cecil, and Frederick counties; Maryland Association of Counties; cities of Frederick and Havre de Grace; Maryland Municipal League; Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Baltimore City Community College; University System of Maryland; Morgan State University; Interagency Commission on School Construction; Maryland Department of Labor; Department of State Police; Maryland Department of Transportation; Public Service Commission; Maryland Stadium Authority; International Code Council; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 24, 2025
js/mcr

Analysis by: Thomas S. Elder

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510