

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 621

(Senators Watson and Salling)

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Environment and Transportation

Public Safety - State Fire Prevention Code - Trash and Recyclable Materials

This bill requires the State Fire Prevention Commission (SFPC), as part of the State Fire Prevention Code, to (1) incorporate by reference in regulations specified provisions of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 101 Life Safety Code (2024 Edition) and (2) allow valet trash and recycling materials awaiting scheduled collection to be placed in the corridors and exits of new and existing apartment buildings. The bill also makes a stylistic change.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: SFPC can implement the bill with existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

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

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: The State Fire Marshal must enforce all laws of the State relating to, among other things, the prevention of fire and the installation and maintenance of equipment intended to control, detect, or extinguish fire. The State Fire Marshal must also enforce regulations adopted by SFPC. SFPC 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 NFPA 1 Fire Code (2024 Edition), the NFPA 101 Life Safety Code (2024 Edition), and some requirements of

the International Building Code as the State Fire Prevention Code. The State Fire Prevention Code has the force and effect of law in the political subdivisions of the State, and enforcement is the responsibility of the State Fire Marshal, a legally designated fire official of a county or municipality of the State, or other persons legally appointed by the State Fire Marshal (as specified under the Public Safety Article).

The State Fire Prevention Code explicitly excludes provisions from NFPA 101 Life Safety Code (2024 Edition) pertaining to valet trash collection services in new and existing apartment buildings. The excluded provisions generally allow placement of trash containers in corridors but place limitations on the container size, construction, placement, and amount of time a container is allowed to be placed in a corridor to address the risk associated with placing combustible materials in a corridor. The limitations vary for placement in corridors with sprinklers.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: HB 848 (Delegate Stein) - Environment and Transportation.

Information Source(s): Department of State Police; National Fire Protection Association; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 13, 2026
me/mcr Third Reader - March 21, 2026

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