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## House Bill 153

Date: February 4, 2020  
Committee: Environment and Transportation  
Bill Title: House Bill 153 - Maryland Building Performance Standards  
Re: **Letter of Support**

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House Bill 153 extends the compulsory adoption timeline for both the International Building Code (IBC) and the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). **After discussions with stakeholders, the Department is proposing an amendment to change the extended timeline from 36 months to 24 months.**

The Maryland Department of Labor supports extension of the adoption timeline to align Maryland with our neighboring states, ensure stakeholder involvement, and allow for a more thorough review of the building codes. Under current law, Maryland adopts the codes within eighteen (18) months of promulgation, and the counties must adopt within twelve (12) months of state adoption. This timeline acts as a barrier to stakeholder involvement.

Maryland is one (1) of only two (2) states (Connecticut) that requires adoption of the IBC and IECC within eighteen (18) months of publication. Delaware, West Virginia, and Washington D.C. do not mandate adoption, Virginia requires adoption every thirty-six (36) months, and Pennsylvania adopts approximately every four and a half (4.5) years.

The current adoption timeline provides minimal time for analysis. Combined, the 2018 versions of the IBC and IECC are almost one thousand (1,000) pages long. Under current law, Maryland must analyze the code, gather feedback and public comments, and complete the regulatory process within eighteen (18) months.

By extending the state adoption timeline from eighteen (18) to twenty-four (24) months, Maryland ensures more time for stakeholders to provide input, which will help to harmonize codes across county lines. This harmonized code will benefit both builders and consumers while ensuring that Maryland maintains the most recent version of the promulgated code.

House Bill 153 ensures that Maryland and local entities gain additional time to work with public and industry stakeholders to ensure that adopted codes benefit all Marylanders. **For this reason, the Department respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 153.**