

February 4, 2020

The Honorable Kumar Barve
Chairman, House Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support of House Bill 153 (Public Safety - Maryland Building Performance Standards)

Dear Chairman Barve:

The Maryland Building Industry Association (MBIA), representing 100,000 employees of the building industry across the State of Maryland, supports House Bill 153 (Public Safety - Maryland Building Performance Standards).

This measure extends the period of time within which the Maryland Department of Labor (MDOL) is required to adopt the International Building Code (IBC) as the new Maryland Building Performance Standards (MBPS). Under current law, MDOL is required to adopt new the IBC within 18 months of issuance. This bill would give them 36 months.

This is a reasonable request. The IBC is complicated and revised frequently. Analyzing and adopting the recommended changes to state and local jurisdictions can be a time-consuming process. MDOL works hard to internally analyze the applicability of revisions to the state of Maryland, and to solicit stakeholder input during this process. Building Performance Standards are important to the safety of Marylanders and the operations of our businesses; extending the time from 18 to 36 months is a reasonable to ensure adoption is completed well without overburdening MDOL staff.

MBIA respectfully requests the Committee give this measure a favorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or lgraf@marylandbuilders.org.

cc: House Environment and Transportation Committee Members