



BERNARD C. "JACK" YOUNG
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

HB 153

February 4, 2020

TO: Members of the House Environment & Transportation Committee

FROM: Nicholas Blendy, Deputy Director of Government Relations

RE: House Bill 153 – Public Safety – Maryland Building Performance Standards

POSITION: OPPOSE

Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **opposes** House Bill (HB) 153.

If enacted, HB 153 would extend from 18 months to 36 months after issuance, the time the Maryland Department of Labor is required to adopt each subsequent version of the Maryland Building Performance Standards.

The International Code Commission (ICC) meets every three years to discuss and adopt new codes. Many of their changes are based on new technologies, new research, or other changes that make buildings safer. HB 153 would detrimentally impact the operations of the City's Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) because adding a further additional three years would mean that every Maryland update would potentially be one adoption behind ICC standards. Functionally, this is because HB 153 would strain the local review and adoption process, add administrative burden on staff and potentially endanger residents by delaying implementation of best practices. Furthermore, this delay could negatively impact insurance ratings and score on the Insurance Service Office report.

For the foregoing reasons, the BCA respectfully requests an **unfavorable** report on HB 153.