

# MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Representing the Volunteer Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Medical Services Personnel

[www.msfa.org](http://www.msfa.org)



Johnie F. Roth Jr.  
Legislative Chairman  
17 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(Office) 410-974-2222  
(Cell) 202-215-2954  
Johnie.roth@bccrs.org

February 4, 2020

## ***House Bill 153- Public Safety-Maryland Building Performance Standards***

*Good afternoon members of the Environment and Transportation Committee.*

*My name is Johnie Roth, Jr. and I Chair the Legislative Committee of the Maryland State Firemen's Association (MSFA), and I am writing in **OPPOSITION** of House Bill 153 Public Safety-Maryland Building Performance Standards.*

*The MSFA is a statewide organization representing over 25,000 volunteer fire, rescue, and emergency medical technicians and 363 member companies.*

*Maryland has adopted model building and fire codes, and under the two separate processes, any delay in either adoption process could introduce major consequences in the coordinated enforcement of these codes.*

*Enforcement of the building codes in Maryland is completed by local, city, or town officials. These arrangements make it more important that those officials be able to reference the most recent model code editions and other requirements. It allows them to compare with other accepted designs and engineering practices relating to current code requirements that address related hazards and levels of required protection.*

*Any delay in adopting the latest edition of either code could present a conflict of requirements, be confusing, and potentially delay design, approval, and even construction of many projects.*

*Revisions are often made and are referenced standards to reflect innovations to system designs. They are especially critical to fire protection features such as advancements in alarm and detection technology, fire suppression systems (including automatic sprinkler protection or water mist). Finally, possibilities of utilizing older or outdated codes are a life safety concern.*

*I appreciate your time on this matter and respectfully request an **UNFAVORABLE** report on **House Bill 153**.*

**Johnie F. Roth, Jr.**  
**MSFA Legislative Chairman**