

HB 109 – Support
Public Safety – Maryland Swimming Pool and Spa Standards – Adoption
Environment and Transportation Committee

January 26, 2021

Good Morning Chair Barve, and Members of the Committee,

My name is William R. Bryant and I am the former Assistant Director of Inspections and Permits for Anne Arundel County. I have served as the President of Maryland Building Officials association (MBOA) and severed as the President of the International Code Council and currently serving as the Past President of ICC. I have completed 32 years of service in the Code Development Profession in Anne Arundel County and 6 years in the private sector. I served on the original committee to develop the Maryland Building Performance Standard and served on the Maryland Rehabilitation Code Council. As a former Building Official, I am happy to provide testimony in favor of HB 109, adopting the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code (ISPSC) for design and construction of public, semi-public, and private pools and spas. At the Local level in Anne Arundel County, I began studying the option of adopting the ISPSC during our local 2015 code adoption. Doing a deep dive into the code in 2014 I postponed the adoption in our 2015 cycle based on some administrative issues at the County level. During my 2018 local code adoption process I had included the International Pool and Spa Code in the construction codes that were adopted in Anne Arundel County. The Code adoption of the ISPSC was part of the package that Anne Arundel County approved. There were no public comments presented concerning the ISPSC during the adoptions of the 2018 International Codes.

Adding the ISPSC next to the Maryland Building Performance Standards provides a safe and comprehensive code for design and construction of swimming pools and spas that correlates with the other building safety codes adopted and enforced in Maryland. HB 109 provides a consistent foundation of requirements across the state that reduces the patchwork of regulations governing the design and construction of pools and spas. Importantly, the ISPSC is written in a format that is well understood by Maryland's design, builder, and code enforcement communities which leads to more consistent application and enforcement of its safety provisions.

By adopting this code as an enforcement document, it gives the local Code Official design criteria to aid the design and performance standards concerning all swimming pools to be constructed. The code now provides for designs that have been absent in the Codes since the last adoption of the BOCA National Building Code (BOCA). The ISPSC Code regulates depth under diving boards, contours and slopes of the sidewalls of the pool, egress into and out of the pool. The code also sets the design standards when calculation the occupant load of the semi and public pools which eventually aide in the design of toilets, showers and all water fixtures to provide sanitary facilities for all semi, and public swimming pools. The code also regulates anti suction and entrapment devices that are critical in preventing loss of life in all swimming pools and spas. The code specifically gives design standards concerning filtration of water, water

conservation, backflow prevention and many other critical requirements in order to keep all swimming pools to the highest standards of safety.

I appreciate the Committee's consideration of HB 109 and urges a favorable recommendation for adoption in the State of Maryland.

Sincerely,

William R. Bryant, MCO, CBO
Former Assistant Director,
Past President, International Code Council