

PUBLIC SAFETY

FIRE DAMPERS, SMOKE DAMPERS, AND SMOKE CONTROL SYSTEMS

Purpose

The purpose of this bill is to establish requirements for the installation, inspection, and testing of fire dampers, smoke dampers, combination fire smoke dampers, and smoke control systems.

1
years

An inspection required one year after first installation



4
years

From then on, inspections required every four years (six years for hospitals)

Smoke/fire dampers



Smoke dampers, fire dampers, and smoke systems help prevent the spread of toxic fumes and fire through HVAC ducts. In commercial buildings, these devices are crucial to **reducing the deadliness of fires** and may actually help protect commercial buildings during fires.

53%

Over 80,000 of 150,000 installed dampers were in need of repair

These results were found by a study published in 2021, by the University of Maryland's Department of Fire Protection Engineering. **This is an unacceptable number, especially if lives are at stake.**



Doing it Right

This bill would require the inspections to be done by licensed HVACR professionals. This will ensure that qualified individuals are inspecting these crucial systems.

Passed Unanimously
DELAWARE

Passed Unanimously
ILLINOIS

Currently, a law in municipalities in Ohio, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Delaware, Illinois, New Mexico, Nevada, and the State of Washington.

Why Maryland needs this

This bill conforms Maryland to the evidence and the approved standards of the National Fire Protection Association. While I acknowledge the burden that this will have on commercial building owners, these inspections and installation requirements are a matter of **public safety**. Failed smoke control systems have made a number of deadly fires such as the 1980 MGM Grand fire and the 2017 Grenfell Tower fire worse than they should have been. **The facts are clear: Investing in this change now will protect commercial buildings and lives later down the road.**