

HARFORD COUNTY BILL NO. 24-004 AA

Brief Title (Plumbing Code)

is herewith submitted to the County Council of Harford County for enrollment as being the text as finally passed.

CERTIFIED TRUE AND CORRECT

Acting

Council Administrator

Date March 19, 2024

ENROLLED

Council President

Date 3/19/24

BY THE COUNCIL

Read the third time.

Passed: LSD 24-010

Failed of Passage: _____

By Order

Acting

Council Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this 20th
Day of March 2024, at 3:00 p.m.

Council Administrator



BY THE EXECUTIVE

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

APPROVED: Date 3/21/24

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill No. 24-004 As Amended having been approved by the Executive and returned to the Council, becomes law on March 21, 2024.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 20, 2024

COUNTY COUNCIL
OF
HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND

BILL NO. 24-004

Introduced by Council President Vincenti at the request of the County Executive

Legislative Day No. 24-010 Date March 19, 2024

AN ACT to repeal and reenact, with amendments, Subsection A, of Section 16-7, Plumbing Board, of Article I, Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits, of Chapter 16, Departments, of the Harford County Code; and to repeal and reenact, with amendments, Chapter 202, Plumbing, of the Harford County Code, as amended; to provide that Harford County shall adopt as its standard for plumbing regulations the 2021 International Plumbing Code, the 2021 International Fuel Gas Code and the 2021 International Residential Code, with certain amendments thereto; and generally relating to plumbing regulations in Harford County, Maryland.

By the Council, February 13, 2024

Introduced, read first time, ordered posted and public hearing scheduled

on: March 12, 2024

at: 6:30 PM

By Order: *Mylin A. Dixon*, Council Administrator

PUBLIC HEARING

Having been posted and notice of time and place of hearing and title of Bill having been published according to the Charter, a public hearing was held on March 12, 2024, and concluded on March 12, 2024.

Mylin A. Dixon, Council Administrator

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW. [Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law. Underlining indicates language added to Bill by amendment. Language lined through indicates matter stricken out of Bill by amendment.

Section 1. Be It Enacted By The County Council of Harford County, Maryland that Subsection A(2), of Section 16-7, Plumbing Board, of Article I, Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits, of Chapter 16, Departments, be, and it is hereby, repealed and reenacted, with amendments; and that Chapter 202, Plumbing, of the Harford County Code, as amended, be, and it is hereby, repealed and reenacted, with amendments, all to read as follows:

Chapter 16

§ 16-7

Plumbing Board.

A. Composition; qualifications; terms.

(1) The Plumbing Board of the county shall consist of five (5) members.

(2) The Board shall be appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council in accordance with the Charter and shall consist of the County Health Officer or his authorized representative, three (3) master plumbers and [such department heads who shall be responsible for the enforcement of the Plumbing Code] THE CHIEF OF PLUMBING SERVICES.

Chapter 202. Plumbing

§ 202-1. Adoption of standards.

A. The [2018] 2021 International Plumbing Code (hereinafter referred to as the Plumbing Code), is hereby adopted and, by reference thereto, is made a part of this chapter with the same force and effect as though set out in full herein, except for such changes, amendments and revisions as are specified in this chapter. At least [2]1 copY[ies]of the Plumbing Code and supplements thereto are on file and open for public use, examination and inspection in the office of the Director of Administration.

B. The International Fuel Gas Code, [2018] 2021 Edition, as published by International Code Council and American Gas Association, is hereby adopted and, by reference thereto, is made a part of this chapter with the same force and effect as though set out in full herein, save and except for such changes, amendments and revisions as are specified in this chapter. At least [2]1 copY[ies] of the standards and supplements thereto are on file and open for public use,

examination and inspection in the office of the Director of Administration.

- C. The [2018] 2021 International Residential Code, Chapters 20, 21, 22, 24, Part VI Fuel Gas and Part VII, Plumbing, is hereby adopted and, by reference thereto, is made a part of this Chapter with the same force and effect as though set out in full herein, save and except for such changes, amendments and revisions as are specified in this Chapter. At least [2]1 copY[ies] of the standards and supplements thereto are on file and open for public use, examination and inspection in the office of the Director of Administration.

§ 202-2. Purpose.

The purpose of this chapter is to provide practical plumbing and gas fitting requirements to safeguard persons and gas fitting conditions in Harford County.

§ 202-3. Scope and applicability.

The provisions of this chapter shall apply to and govern plumbing and gas fitting work performed in Harford County and are designed to safeguard persons and property.

§ 202-4. Certificate of registration.

- A. No person shall provide plumbing and/or gas fitting services in Harford County unless that person holds a valid certificate of registration issued by the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits.

- B. To qualify for a certificate of registration, the applicant shall have been issued a license or certificate of registration by:

- (1) The Maryland State Board of Plumbing; or
- (2) The Baltimore County Plumbing Board or the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission; or
- (3) The Harford County Plumbing Board.

- C. Master plumber and master natural gas fitter's certificate of registration. Any applicant for a master certificate to perform plumbing or natural gas fitting work shall provide the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits with the following minimum information:

- (1) Current license number issued by the Maryland State Board of Plumbing or other

accepted jurisdiction; and

(2) A current certificate of insurance in an amount equal to or greater than the amount required by the Maryland State Board of Plumbing.

D. Journey plumber and journey natural gas fitter's certificate of registration. Any applicant for a journey certificate to perform plumbing or natural gas fitting work shall provide the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits with the current license number issued by the Maryland State Board of Plumbing or other accepted jurisdiction.

E. Apprentice plumber and apprentice natural gas fitter's certificate of registration. Any applicant for an apprentice certificate to provide assistance to a registered master plumber or natural gas fitter shall provide the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits with the current certificate of registration issued by the Maryland State Board of Plumbing or other accepted jurisdiction. The fee to obtain an apprentice plumber or an apprentice natural gas fitter certificate shall be \$5.

F. Propane gas fitter's certificate of registration. Any applicant for a propane gas certificate shall provide the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits with the following minimum information:

(1) Current license number issued by the Maryland State Board of Plumbing or other accepted jurisdiction; and

(2) A current certificate of insurance in an amount equal to or greater than the amount required by the Maryland State Board of Plumbing.

G. Well pump/water conditioner installer's certificate of registration. Any applicant for a well pump/water conditioner installer's certificate shall provide the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits with the following minimum information:

(1) Current Maryland State well pump/water conditioner installer's license; and

(2) A current certificate of insurance in an amount equal to or greater than the amount required by the Maryland State Board of Plumbing.

H. On-site utility contractor's certificate of registration. This certificate shall be issued to a

1 person who is deemed qualified by the Harford County Plumbing Board to install on-site
2 water service piping, sewer and storm drainage piping from the property line to any structure
3 on such property. Any applicant for an on-site utility contractor's certificate shall
4 demonstrate a minimum of 5 years of supervisory experience in the utility contractor trade
5 and certification in OSHA requirements for confined spaces and OSHA Subpart "P" in trench
6 safety by an entity deemed acceptable by the Harford County Plumbing Board or have a
7 license or certificate from another jurisdiction which is determined by the Department of
8 Inspections, Licenses and Permits to have equivalent certification requirements. The
9 applicant shall provide the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits with the
10 following minimum information:

- 11 (1) A current business address and telephone number; and
- 12 (2) A current certificate of insurance in an amount equal to or greater than the amount
13 required by the Maryland State Board of Plumbing.

14 The Board, in its discretion, may require a written test to determine proficiencies within the
15 scope of the foregoing certificate. The Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits shall
16 require either a utility contractor or a journey utility installer holding a valid Harford County
17 certificate of registration on all work sites to direct and control installations. All utility
18 contractors on site shall have, on their person, a current certificate of completion of training
19 in confined spaces and Subpart "P" in trench safety. The fee to obtain an on-site utility
20 contractor's certificate shall be \$45.

- 21 I. On-site journey utility installer's certificate of registration. This certificate shall be issued to
22 a person who is deemed qualified by the Harford County Plumbing Board to install on-site
23 water service piping, sewer and storm drainage piping from the property line to any structure
24 on such property under the direction and control of a certified utility contractor. Any
25 applicant for an on-site journey utility contractor's certificate shall demonstrate a minimum
26 of 2 years' experience in the utility construction trade and training in OSHA requirements
27 for confined spaces and OSHA Subpart "P" in trench safety by an entity deemed acceptable

1 by the Harford County Plumbing Board or have a certificate from another jurisdiction which
2 is determined by the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits to have equivalent
3 certification requirements. The applicant shall provide the Department of Inspections,
4 Licenses and Permits with the following minimum information:

- 5 (1) Name of current employer with employer's address and telephone number; and
- 6 (2) A current photo id.

7 The Board, in its discretion, may require a written test to determine proficiencies within the
8 scope of the foregoing certificate. The Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits shall
9 require a certified utility contractor or a certified journey utility installer holding a valid
10 Harford County certificate of registration on all work sites to direct and control installations.
11 All journey utility installers on site shall have, on their person, a current certificate of
12 completion of training in confined spaces and Subpart "P" in trench safety. The fee for a
13 journey utility installer's certificate shall be \$15.

14 J. Septic installer's certificate of registration. This certificate shall be issued to a person who
15 is deemed qualified by the Harford County Plumbing Board to install sewage disposal
16 systems. Any applicant for a septic installer's certificate shall demonstrate a minimum of 5
17 years of supervisory experience in the construction of sewage disposal systems and
18 certification in OSHA requirements for confined spaces and OSHA Subpart "P" in trench
19 safety by an entity deemed acceptable by the Harford County Plumbing Board or have a
20 certificate from another jurisdiction which is determined by the Department of Inspections,
21 Licenses and Permits to have equivalent certification requirements. The applicant shall
22 provide the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits with the following minimum
23 information:

- 24 (1) A current business address and telephone number;
- 25 (2) A current certificate of insurance in an amount equal to or greater than the amount
26 required by the Maryland State Board of Plumbing; and
- 27 (3) A current photo id.

1 The Board, in its discretion, may require a written test to determine proficiencies within the
2 scope of the foregoing certificate. The Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits shall
3 require a certified septic installer or a certified journey septic installer holding a valid Harford
4 County certificate of registration on all work sites to direct and control installations. All
5 septic installers on site shall have, on their person, a current certificate of completion of
6 training in confined spaces and Subpart "P" in trench safety. The fee for a septic installer's
7 certificate shall be \$45.

8 K. Journey septic installer's certificate. This certificate shall be issued to a person who is
9 deemed qualified by the Harford County Plumbing Board to install sewage disposal systems
10 under the direction and control of a certified septic installer. Any applicant for a journey
11 septic installer's certificate shall demonstrate a minimum of 2 years' experience in the
12 installation of sewage disposal systems and training in OSHA requirements for confined
13 spaces and OSHA Subpart "P" in trench safety by an entity deemed acceptable by the
14 Harford County Plumbing Board or have a certificate from another jurisdiction which is
15 determined by the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits to have equivalent
16 certification requirements. Such applicant shall provide the Department of Inspections,
17 Licenses and Permits with the following information:

- 18 (1) Name of current employer with employer's address and telephone number; and
19 (2) A current photo id.

20 The Board, in its discretion, may require a written test to determine proficiencies within the
21 scope of the forgoing certificate. The Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits shall
22 require a certified septic installer or a certified journey septic installer holding a valid Harford
23 County certificate of registration on all work sites to direct and control installations. All
24 journey septic installers on site shall have, on their person, a current certificate of completion
25 of training in confined spaces and Subpart "P" in trench safety. The fee for a journey septic
26 installer's certificate shall be \$15.

27 L. Fees for certificate of registration and exams. Unless provided in this chapter, fees shall be

as set forth in Chapter 157 of the Harford County Code, as amended.

M. All master plumber, master natural gas fitter, propane gas fitter, journey plumber, journey natural gas fitter certificates of registration issued pursuant to this section shall expire on April 30 of each even-numbered year, and all such certificates shall be issued for a 2-year period. All apprentice plumber, apprentice natural gas fitter, on-site utility, journeyperson utility, septic, journeyperson septic and well pump/water conditioner installer certificates issued pursuant to this section shall expire on October 31 of each even-numbered year.

N. The Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits may, in its discretion, suspend or revoke the certificate of registration of any person who makes a false or misleading statement in an application; who sells, lends or otherwise permits the improper use of a certificate of registration or who obtains permits for others to do plumbing, gas fitting or on-site sewage disposal work; who fails to maintain a regular place of business; whose license or certificate, on which registration is based, has been suspended or revoked; or who commits any violation of Chapter 202 of the Harford County Code, as amended.

O. Upon receipt of written requests directed to the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits, the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits, in its discretion, may suspend or revoke the certificate of registration of any person who commits a violation of Chapter 202 of the Harford County Code, as amended, or any other law or regulation governing the conduct of plumbing, gas fitting or sewage disposal.

(1) No certificate shall be suspended or revoked except after a hearing before the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits of which the certificate holder shall receive at least 5 days' notice, in writing, together with a statement of the charges. Following the hearing, the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits may revoke or suspend any certificate of registration for such period of time as it may find proper.

(2) In the event of a revocation, no application for the reinstatement of a revoked certificate of registration shall be considered until the expiration of 6 months from

the date of such revocation. At the end of such 6-month period, the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits may, in its discretion, reinstate a revoked certificate.

P. Any holder of a certificate of registration shall notify the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits immediately of any changes in location of business, employer, license or certificate status or phone number.

Q. Any certificate of insurance required to be submitted under this section shall provide that in the event the insurance required under this chapter is cancelled, the insurer shall notify the Harford County Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits within 10 days after the date of cancellation.

§ 202-5. Permit applicants.

A. No work regulated by this chapter shall be commenced without a permit issued by the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits or, in the case of septic installers, issued by the Harford County Health Department. Only a master plumber, master natural gas fitter, well pump/water conditioner installer, on-site utility contractor or septic installer shall be eligible to apply for permits authorized by this chapter.

B. A plumbing permit issued in accordance with § 202-5A of this chapter may be issued to the owner of a single-family dwelling occupied exclusively by the owner as his/her primary residence upon the following conditions:

- (1) All work must be performed in accordance with this chapter; and
- (2) The owner shall be tested and qualified by the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits; and
- (3) The owner shall sign an affidavit agreeing to comply with all applicable provisions of this chapter and attesting that the location in which the work will be performed is the applicant's primary residence.
- (4) Final connection to a municipal water or sewer system shall be made only by a registered master plumber.

(5) The owner shall not perform work on fuel gas piping or appliances.

C. The Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits may cancel a permit at the written request of the property owner or his/her agent upon satisfactory compliance with the following requirements:

(1) The Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits has forwarded a copy of the written request to the permit holder.

(2) A permit may not be canceled for a minimum of 7 business days commencing after notification to the permit holder unless the parties agree to waive the waiting period or the building official determines that extenuating circumstances exist that warrant modification of the waiting period.

(3) In cases where work has commenced and has not been completed, the Department shall perform an onsite inspection and certify that the work performed to date has been deemed to not pose a threat to the public health, safety and welfare.

(4) In cases where the work has not been completed, a permit shall be applied for by an individual approved under § 82-7 of this Code. The applicant shall also submit an assumption agreement, if applicable, for the remainder of the work. Assumption agreements shall be completed on a form provided by the Department.

§ 202-6. Change of registered contractors.

Upon written notification by a master plumber, master natural gas fitter, water pump contractor, on-site utility contractor or septic installer to the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits and, in the case of a septic permit, to the Harford County Health Department, a permit may be canceled upon satisfactory compliance with the following requirements:

A. A minimum 7 working day waiting period commencing the day that the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits or, in the case of a sewage disposal permit, the Harford County Health Department receives the cancellation request unless the parties agree to waive the waiting period or the building official determines that extenuating circumstances exist that warrant modification of the waiting period; and

B. The Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits certifies that the work performed to date is Code compliant and that the work has been deemed not to pose a threat to the health, safety or welfare of the public; and

C. In the case where another registered contractor will be performing the remainder of the work, the new registered contractor shall submit to the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits an assumption agreement on a form provided by the Department prior to a new permit being issued.

§ 202-7. Plans and specifications.

All plans and specifications required herein shall be prepared by a registered professional engineer licensed to do business in the State of Maryland, except that a master plumber, master natural gas fitter, on-site utility contractor or septic installer holding a valid certificate of registration in Harford County may design plumbing, gas fitting or sewage disposal systems for their own installation. Each set of plans and specifications submitted shall have thereon the name and address of the designer and certification by the designer that the plans and specifications have been prepared in accordance with this chapter. The plans and specifications shall be submitted to the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits and shall include thereon complete design criteria and supporting calculations.

§ 202-8. Inspection of plumbing, gas fitting and sewage disposal systems.

A. The Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits shall cause the inspection, during the course of construction and upon completion of the construction, of all plumbing and gas fitting for which a plumbing or gas permit, other than an annual inspection permit, is required. The Harford County Health Department shall cause the inspection, during the course of construction and upon completion of the construction, of all sewage disposal systems for which a sewage disposal permit, other than an annual inspection permit, is required. If any defects are found, the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits, or in the case of sewage disposal system installation, the Harford County Health Department, shall have the authority to order such plumbing, gas fitting or sewage disposal system to be corrected to comply with the provisions of this Code. It shall be unlawful for any person to

cover or enclose from view any portions of a plumbing, gas fitting or sewage disposal system prior to the time that the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits or the Harford County Health Department has inspected and approved it. The Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits or, in the case of sewage disposal system installation, the Harford County Health Department shall prepare a written report of any such inspection and will maintain such report in an appropriate file.

- B. No potable well water service line or well for potable water supply shall be covered or enclosed from view prior to inspection by the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits. The service line and all underground fittings connected thereto shall be tested for leaks and overall integrity prior to covering and enclosing the line.

§ 202-9. Piping through adjacent property.

Sewer, water and gas piping shall not be connected or installed through property other than the property to be served except as provided herein. Plumbing or gas piping connections which cannot be made except by crossing nonserviced property may, with the permission of the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits, be carried through an easement across nonserviced property, provided that:

- A. An easement is obtained by the property owner desiring service, without cost or liability to Harford County; and
- B. The easement meets all applicable regulatory requirements; and
- C. The easement shall be granted and conveyed by plat or formal deed recorded in the land records of Harford County.

§ 202-10. Modifications.

- A. Definitions.

- (1) As used in this Code, the term “authority having jurisdiction” means the Harford County Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits.
- (2) As used in this code, the term “code official” means the Director of the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits or his/her designee.

(3) As used in this code, the term “Department of Plumbing Inspection” means the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits.

(4) As used in this code, the term “department of inspection” means the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits.

B. The following sections are changes or additions to certain sections of the [2018] 2021 International Plumbing Code:

(1) Subsection 101.1, Title, is amended by substituting the words “Harford County, Maryland” for the words “[name of jurisdiction]”.

(2) Subsection 103.1, General, is deleted in its entirety.

(3) Subsection 103.2, Appointment, is amended by adding “and the deputy code official” after the word “official” in the first line.

(4) subsection 103.3, deputies, is amended by deleting “code official” in the third line and inserting in lieu thereof “department of building safety” and by deleting “a deputy code official, other” in the fourth line.

(5) Subsection [103.4]104.8, liability, is amended by adding “, a member of the Harford County Plumbing Board” after the word “appeals” in the second line.

(6) Subsection 105.2, alternative materials, design and methods of construction and equipment, is deleted and the following is inserted in lieu thereof:

“105.2 Alternative materials, methods and equipment. The provisions of this code are not intended to prevent the installation of any material or to prohibit any method of construction not specifically prescribed by this code, provided that any such alternative has been approved. An alternative material or method of construction shall be approved where the code official finds that the proposed alternative material, method or equipment complies with the intent of the provisions of this code and is not less than the equivalent of that prescribed in this code. Where the alternative material, design or method of construction is not approved, the code official shall respond in writing, stating the reasons why the alternative was not

approved.”

(7) Subsections 106.1.1, annual permit, and 106.1.2, annual permit records, are deleted in their entirety.

(8) Subsection 106.3, Application for permit, is amended by adding “in writing or electronically” after the word “furnished” in the third line and by adding “who shall meet the requirements of § 202-5 of this chapter” after the word “agent” in the sixth line.

[(9) Subsection 106.3.1, Construction drawings, is amended by adding “All plans shall be prepared in accordance with § 202-7 of this chapter.” in the fourth line after “for a permit.”]

[(10)](9) New Subsection 106.3.[4]3 is added as follows:

“106.3.[4]3 Emergency work. When work of an emergency nature, other than sewage disposal work, must be performed to rectify a condition that is potentially unsanitary or hazardous to life, health or property, the master plumber, master natural gas fitter, water pump contractor or on-site utility contractor, as the case may be, may undertake such work prior to the issuance of a permit, but he or she shall notify the authority having jurisdiction over the emergency and shall obtain a permit for doing such work within 48 hours of the commencement of the work.”

[(11)](10) Subsection 106.5.3, expiration, is deleted and the following is inserted in lieu thereof:

“106.5.3 Expiration. Every permit issued by the code official under the provisions of this code shall expire by limitation and become null and void if the work authorized by such permit is not commenced within 1 year from the date of such permit, or if the work authorized by such permit is suspended or abandoned at any time after the work is commenced for a period of 180 days.”

[(12)](11) Subsection 106.5.4, extensions, is amended by deleting the last two sentences.

1 [(13)](12) New subsection 106.5.5.1 is added as follows:

2 **“106.5.5.1 Withholding permits.** The building official may withhold the issuance
3 of a plumbing or fuel gas permit if the applicant has failed to remedy or correct any
4 violations of this code on any previous permits within 90 calendar days from the
5 time for which the applicant has been cited by the department of building safety.”

6 [(14)](13) Subsection 106.5.[7]6, previous approvals, is amended by deleting the
7 language beginning with the “,” in the fifth line down through the word
8 “abandoned” in the seventh line.

9 [(15)] Subsection 106.6.1, work commencing before permit issuance, is amended by
10 deleting the language beginning with “100” in the fourth line down through the
11 word “fees” in the fifth line and inserting in lieu thereof “a fee established by the
12 code official that shall be in addition to the required permit fees unless waived by
13 the code official pursuant to established policy”.

14 (16) Subsections 106.6.2 and 106.6.3 are deleted and the following is inserted in lieu
15 thereof:

16 **“106.6.2 Fee schedule.** The fees for all plumbing and fuel gas work shall be in
17 accordance with chapter 157 of the Harford County Code, as amended.

18 **106.6.3 Fee refunds.** Refunds shall be administered in accordance with chapter
19 157 of the Harford County Code, as amended.”

20 (17) Subsection 108.1, unlawful acts, is amended by adding “or fuel gas” after the word
21 “plumbing” in the third line.

22 (18) Subsection 108.4, Violation penalties, is amended by deleting “[specify offense],
23 punishable by a fine of not more than [amount] dollars or by imprisonment not
24 exceeding [number of days], or both such fine and imprisonment.” in the seventh
25 line and inserting in lieu thereof “misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be
26 subject to a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment for not more than 3
27 months, or both.”.

BILL NO. 24-004
As Amended

- (19) Subsection 108.5, Stop work orders, is [hereby] amended by deleting “of not less than [amount] dollars or more than [amount] dollars” in the fourteenth line and inserting in lieu thereof “as stipulated in Chapter 157 of the Harford County Code, as amended.”.
- (20) Subsection 108.7, unsafe plumbing, is amended by adding “or fuel gas” after the word “plumbing” in the title on the first line, and by adding “or fuel gas system” after the word “plumbing” in the first line.
- (21) Subsection 108.7.1, authority to condemn equipment, is amended by adding “or fuel gas system” after the word “plumbing” in the second line of the first paragraph and in the first line of the second paragraph.
- (22) Subsection 109.1, Application for appeal, is amended by adding “as established in section 113 of Chapter 82 of the Harford County Code” after “Board of Appeals” in the second and third lines.
- (23) Subsections 109.2 through 109.7 are deleted.]
- (14) SUBSECTION 107.1, CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS, IS AMENDED BY ADDING “ALL PLANS SHALL BE PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 202-7 OF THIS CHAPTER.” IN THE FIFTH LINE AFTER “FOR A PERMIT.”
- (15) SECTION 108 NOTICE OF APPROVAL IS AMENDED BY DELETING “APPROVAL” IN THE SECTION TITLE AND IN LINE THREE BETWEEN THE WORDS “OF” AND “SHALL” AND REPLACE WITH “COMPLETION”.
- (16) SUBSECTIONS 109.2 IS DELETED AND THE FOLLOWING IS INSERTED IN LIEU THEREOF:
- “109.2 FEE SCHEDULE. THE FEES FOR ALL PLUMBING AND FUEL GAS WORK SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 157 OF THE HARFORD COUNTY CODE, AS AMENDED.**
- (17) SUBSECTION 109.3, WORK COMMENCING BEFORE PERMIT ISSUANCE, IS AMENDED BY DELETING THE LANGUAGE BEGINNING WITH “A” IN

THE THIRD LINE DOWN THROUGH THE WORD “FEES” IN THE FIFTH LINE AND INSERTING IN LIEU THEREOF “A FEE ESTABLISHED BY THE CODE OFFICIAL THAT SHALL BE IN ADDITION TO THE REQUIRED PERMIT FEES UNLESS WAIVED BY THE CODE OFFICIAL PURSUANT TO ESTABLISHED POLICY”.

- (18) SUBSECTIONS 109.5 IS DELETED AND THE FOLLOWING IS INSERTED IN LIEU THEREOF:

[106.9.5] 109.5 FEE REFUNDS. REFUNDS SHALL BE ADMINISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 157 OF THE HARFORD COUNTY CODE, AS AMENDED.”

- (19) SUBSECTION 113.1, GENERAL, IS HEREBY DELETED AND THE FOLLOWING IS INSERTED IN LIEU THEREOF:

113.1 GENERAL. IN ORDER TO HEAR AND DECIDE APPEALS OF THE ORDERS, DECISION OR DETERMINATIONS MADE BY THE CODE OFFICIAL RELATIVE TO THE APPLICATION AND INTERPRETATION OF THIS CODE THERE SHALL BE AND IS HEREBY CREATED A BOARD OF APPEALS AS ESTABLISHED IN SECTION 113 OF CHAPTER 82 OF THE HARFORD COUNTY CODE.

- (20) SUBSECTIONS 113.2 THROUGH 113.4 ARE DELETED.

- (21) SUBSECTION 115.1, UNLAWFUL ACTS, IS AMENDED BY ADDING “OR FUEL GAS” AFTER THE WORD “PLUMBING” IN THE THIRD LINE.

- (22) SUBSECTION 115.4, VIOLATION PENALTIES, IS AMENDED BY DELETING “[SPECIFY OFFENSE], PUNISHABLE BY A FINE OF NOT MORE THAN [AMOUNT] DOLLARS OR BY IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING [NUMBER OF DAYS], OR BOTH SUCH FINE AND IMPRISONMENT.” IN THE SEVENTH LINE AND INSERTING IN LIEU THEREOF: “MISDEMEANOR AND, UPON CONVICTION, SHALL BE

SUBJECT TO A FINE OF NOT MORE THAN \$1,000 OR IMPRISONMENT
FOR NOT MORE THAN 3 MONTHS, OR BOTH.”.

(23) SUBSECTION 115.6, UNSAFE PLUMBING, IS AMENDED BY ADDING “OR
FUEL GAS” AFTER THE WORD “PLUMBING” IN THE TITLE ON THE
FIRST LINE, AND BY ADDING “OR FUEL GAS SYSTEM” AFTER THE
WORD “PLUMBING” IN THE FIRST LINE.

(24) SUBSECTION 115.6.1, AUTHORITY TO CONDEMN EQUIPMENT, IS
AMENDED BY ADDING “OR FUEL GAS SYSTEM” AFTER THE WORD
“PLUMBING” IN THE SECOND LINE OF THE FIRST PARAGRAPH AND IN
THE FIRST LINE OF THE SECOND PARAGRAPH.

(25) SUBSECTION 116.4, FAILURE TO COMPLY, IS HEREBY AMENDED BY
DELETING “ESTABLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY HAVING
JURISDICTION” IN THE SIXTH LINE AND INSERTING IN LIEU THEREOF
“AS STIPULATED IN CHAPTER 157 OF THE HARFORD COUNTY CODE,
AS AMENDED.”

[(24)](26) Section 202, General definitions, is amended by deleting the definition of
“plumbing” and inserting the following in lieu thereof:

“**PLUMBING.** The practice, materials and fixtures used in the installation,
maintenance, extension, alteration and removal of all piping, plumbing fixtures,
plumbing appliances and plumbing appurtenances in connection with any of the
following: sanitary drainage, storm facilities, venting systems, public or private
water supply systems, within or adjacent to any building structure or conveyance,
also the practice and materials used in the installation, maintenance, extension,
alteration or removal of stormwater, refrigeration and air conditioning drainage,
liquid waste or sewage, and water supply, of any premises to their connection with
the water supply system or to an acceptable disposal facility. ‘Plumbing’ also
means the practice and materials in the installation, repair, service and replacement

of gas piping, gas utilization equipment and associated accessories.

Except for the initial connection to a potable water supply downstream of the backflow preventer and the final connection that discharges indirectly into a public or private disposal system, the following are excluded from the definition: all piping, equipment or material used exclusively for environmental control, for incorporation of liquids or gases into any product or process for use in the manufacturing or storage of any product, including product development, or for the installation, alteration, repair or removal of automatic sprinkler systems installed for fire protection only or their related appurtenances or standpipes connected to automatic sprinkler systems or overhead or underground fire lines beginning at a point where water is used exclusively for fire protection.”

[(25)](27) Section 202, General definitions, is [hereby] amended by adding the definition of “plumbing board” between the terms “plumbing appurtenance” and “plumbing fixture”.

“PLUMBING BOARD. The Harford County Plumbing Board as defined in § 16-7 of the Harford County Code, as amended.”

[(26)](28) Section 202, General Definitions, is amended by modifying the term “vent stack” to read as follows: “vent stack provides positive pressure relief from the base of individual drain stacks having 5 or more branch intervals.”.

[(27)](29) Subsection 301.3, Connections to drainage system, is [hereby] amended by adding the following to the end of the [sixth]SEVENTH line:
“The drainage system of any building in which plumbing fixtures are installed shall be connected to a public sewer system if the public sewer system is within 10 feet of any property line of the premises, or other reasonable distance as determined by the authority having jurisdiction.”

[(28)](30) Subsection 301.4, Connections to water supply, is [hereby] amended by adding the following to the end of the fifth line:

1 “The water distribution system of any building in which plumbing fixtures are
2 installed shall be connected to a public water supply system if the public water
3 system is within 10 feet of any property line of the premises, or other reasonable
4 distance as determined by the authority having jurisdiction.”

5 (31) SUBSECTION 314.2.1 CONDENSATE DISPOSAL IS AMENDED BY
6 ADDING THE FOLLOWING AT THE END OF THIS SUBSECTION.
7 “CONDENSATE DISPOSAL THAT IS CORROSIVE WASTE SHALL
8 COMPLY WITH SECTION 803 OF THIS CODE.

9 [(29)](32) New Subsection 404.2.1 is added as follows:

10 **“404.2.1 Maryland Accessibility Code.** Plumbing fixtures, materials and
11 clearances for those fixtures shall be accessible to individuals with disabilities as
12 specified in the Maryland Accessibility Code, COMAR 09.12.53, et seq.”

13 [(30)](33) New Subsection 405.3.6 is added as follows:

14 **“405.3.6 Faucet installations.** Fiberglass or plastic tub and shower enclosures
15 cannot be installed with faucets back-to-back unless approved by the authority
16 having jurisdiction.”

17 [(31) Subsection 504.6, Requirements for discharge piping, is amended by deleting Item
18 5 and inserting in lieu thereof “Discharge to a waste receptor or to the outdoors”.]

19 [(32)](34) Subsection 504.7, Required pan, is amended by adding the words “, clothes
20 washing machine” after the word “heater” in the first line.

21 [(33)](35) New Section 603.3 is added as follows:

22 **“603.3 Water meters.** Each dwelling unit which meets the definition of a
23 “dwelling, carriage court” contained in § 267-4 of the Harford County Code, as
24 amended, shall be provided with a private, individual water meter.”

25 [(34)](36) New subsection 603.4 is added as follows:

26 **“603.4 Underground non-metallic water service.** Underground non-metallic
27 water service piping shall be made detectable by the installation of tracer wiring

that complies with public utilities article, §12-129 of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The wire shall be an insulated copper tracer wire suitable for direct burial, at least 10 awg, or equivalent. Insulation shall be 30 mil minimum thickness, HMWPE or HDPE polyethylene, color coded blue. The wire shall be installed in the same trench as the piping, tied or taped to the pipe every 5 to 8 feet in the 3 o'clock position or installed within 12 inches of the pipe in fill. One end of the wire shall terminate within 5 feet of the building served, at or above grade, accessible for use, and resistant to physical damage. Tracer wiring installations shall be tested by location with line tracing equipment upon completion of rough grading and again prior to final acceptance."

[(35)](37) Subsection 604.8 is deleted and the following is inserted in lieu thereof:

"604.8 Water pressure reducing valve or regulator. When connected to a public water supply system, an approved pressure-reducing valve shall be installed in the building water service pipe near its point of entrance to the building. Pressure to the building water distribution piping shall be limited to a maximum pressure of 80 p.s.i. under no-flow conditions. The water distribution piping shall be relieved of excessive pressure due to thermal expansion by one of the following methods:

1. Air chambers when equipped with an accessible means for restoring the air.
2. Approved mechanical devices. Pressure at any fixture shall be limited to no more than 80 p.s.i. under no-flow conditions.

Exception: Where the water service pipe supplies water directly to:

1. A water pressure booster system; or
2. An elevated water gravity tank; or
3. Pumps provided in connection with a hydropneumatic or elevated gravity water supply tank system."

[(36)](38) Subsection 605.3 is deleted and the following is inserted in lieu thereof:

"605.3 Water service pipe. Approved water service pipe to the point of entrance

of a building, including piping to the pressure-reducing valve, shall have a minimum pressure rating of 200 p.s.i., 73°F. Acceptable materials for a water service include brass pipe, copper tube or copper pipe, cast iron water pipe, polyethylene plastic tubing and chlorinated polyvinyl chloride service pipe. Copper tube or copper pipe, when used underground, may not be less than Type L. All threaded ferrous pipe and fittings shall be galvanized or cement lined and, when used underground in corrosive soil or filled ground, shall be coal tar enamel coated, or the equivalent, and threaded joints shall be coated and wrapped when installed.”

[(37)](39) New Subsection 605.3.2 is added as follows:

“605.3.2 Backflow prevention on commercial properties. For a commercial property with multiple tenants, the water service for each tenant space shall be separate and shall have a testable backflow preventer installed.”

[(38)](40) Subsection 605.4 is deleted and the following is inserted in lieu thereof:

“605.4 Water distribution pipe. Water distribution pipe shall be of brass pipe, copper tube or copper pipe, galvanized steel pipe, polyethylene and chlorinated polyvinyl plastic when approved for hot or cold use. Copper tube or copper pipe, when used underground, may not be less than Type L and, when used aboveground, may not be less than Type M.”

[(39)](41) Subsection 605.5, fittings, is amended by adding “push-fit joints shall not be installed below grade.” After the last sentence in the seventh line.

[(40)](42) Subsection 606.2, location of shutoff valves, is amended by adding “and/or hose bib” after the word “sillcock” in numbered paragraph 2.

[(41)](43) Subsection 607.2, hot or tempered water supply to fixtures, is amended by deleting “50” in the fourth line and inserting in lieu thereof “75”.

[(42)](44) Subsection 607.3, thermal expansion control, is amended by adding the following at the end of the paragraph:

“Exception: (1) instantaneous water heaters.

(2) well systems with water pressure tanks.

[(43)](45) New subsection 703.7 is added as follows:

“703.7 Building sanitary sewer tracer wiring. Underground building sanitary sewer non-metallic piping shall be made detectable by the installation of tracer wiring that complies with public utilities article, § 12-129 of the annotated code of Maryland. The wire shall be an insulated copper tracer wire suitable for direct burial, at least 10 awg, or equivalent. Insulation shall be 30 mil minimum thickness, HMWPE or HDPE polyethylene, color coded green. The wire shall be installed in the same trench as the piping, tied or taped to the pipe every 5 to 8 feet in the 3 o’clock position or installed within 12 inches of the pipe in fill. One end of the wire shall terminate within 5 feet of the building served, at or above grade, accessible for use, and resistant to physical damage. Tracer wiring installations shall be tested by location with line tracing equipment upon completion of rough grading and again prior to final acceptance.”

[(44)](46) Table 710.1(2) is amended by deleting note “b.” And inserting in lieu thereof the following:

“b. The size of the drain stack should be maintained full-size to its stack vent to provide the air associated with the high velocity drain flow that the vent stack is relieving at its base.”

[(45)] Subsection 714.1, sewage backflow, is amended by adding “or private” after the word “public” in the fourth, eighth and twelfth line.

(46) Subsection 904.3, vent termination, is amended by deleting “to the open air or to a stack-type air admittance valve in accordance with section 918” in the second and third lines.]

(47) Subsection 918.3.1 is deleted.

(48) Subsection 918.3.2, stack, is amended by deleting “or stack vents” in the third line.

(49) Subsection 918.8, prohibited installations, is amended by deleting the third

1 sentence of the paragraph.

2 [(50) Subsection 1002.4.1.4 is deleted.]

3 [(51))(50) Subsection 1003.3.1, Grease interceptors and automatic grease removal
4 devices required, is amended by adding, prior to the word “A” in the second line,
5 “Except in special cases as determined by the authority having jurisdiction”.

6 [(52))(51) Subsection 1003.3.1, Grease interceptors and automatic grease removal
7 devices required, is amended by inserting the following new sentence after “to be
8 discharged” in the fourteenth line: “Upon request by the Harford County Health
9 Department, the owner of the establishment shall provide a copy of a pumping
10 contract or pumping receipts for the interceptor. The minimum size of a grease
11 interceptor shall be 1,000 gallons. The grease interceptor shall be located outside
12 of the building unless otherwise determined by the authority having jurisdiction.
13 The discharge from a commercial dishwasher shall not pass through a grease
14 interceptor unless approved by the authority having jurisdiction.”

15 [(53))(52) Subsection 1003.3.1, Grease interceptors and automatic grease removal
16 devices required, is amended by inserting the following new sentence at the end of
17 the subsection: “Where installed inside a building, a grease interceptor shall be
18 located in a separate room which has outside access.”

19 [(54))(53) New Subsection 1101.10 is added as follows:

20 **“1101.10 Parking and fuel island storm drainage.** On parking lots, fuel islands
21 or parking garages where oil waste product is subject to mixing with rain water, ice
22 and melting snow, drains for the run off shall not be connected to the sanitary sewer.
23 Any stormwater run off shall be drained separately to the storm sewer.”

24 [(55))(54) Subsection 1202.1, nonflammable medical gases, is amended by deleting
25 numbered exception “2.”.

26 C. The following sections are changes or additions to certain sections of the [2018] 2021
27 International Fuel Gas Code:

(1) Subsection 101.1, Title, is amended by deleting “[name of jurisdiction]” and replacing with “Harford County, Maryland”.

(2) Subsection 101.3, Appendices, is deleted and the following is inserted in lieu thereof:

“101.3 Appendices. The provisions of Appendix A, Appendix B, Appendix C and Appendix D are hereby adopted as part of this code.”

(3) New subsection 102.12 is added as follows:

“102.12 Alternative compliance. When approved by the department of inspections, licenses and permits, gas installations may comply with NFPA 58.”

(4) Sections 103 through 110 are deleted and the following is inserted in lieu thereof:

“Administration of the [2018] 2021 International Fuel Gas Code shall be in accordance with §202-10b(1) of this code.”

(5) Section 202 (IFGC), General definitions, is amended by adding the following definition of “Plumbing Board” between the terms “[plumbing appurtenance] PLUMBING, THERMOPLASTIC” and “[plumbing fixture] POINT OF DELIVERY”:

“PLUMBING BOARD. The Harford County Plumbing Board as defined in §16-7 of the Harford County Code, as amended.”

(6) Subsection 310.1, pipe and tubing other than csst, is amended by adding “for existing gas piping installations,” at the beginning of the second sentence before the word “gas”.

(7) Subsection 310.3, arc-resistant csst, is deleted.

D. The following sections are changes or additions to certain sections of the [2018] 2021 International Residential Code:

(1) The following appendices of the [2018] 2021 International Residential Code are hereby adopted: Appendices AA through [3]AD, Appendix AI and Appendix AP.

(2) Table P2906.4, Water Service Pipe, is amended by deleting “m” in the fifth line.

(3) Subsection P2906.4.1 is amended by deleting “5 feet” in the eighth and twelfth lines and inserting in lieu thereof “12 inches”.

(4) New subsection p2906.4.2 is added as follows:

“P2906.4.2 Underground non-metallic water service. Underground non-metallic water service piping shall be made detectable by the installation of tracer wiring that complies with public utilities article, § 12-129 of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The wire shall be an insulated copper tracer wire suitable for direct burial, at least 10 awg, or equivalent. Insulation shall be 30 mil minimum thickness, HMWPE or HDPE polyethylene, color coded blue. The wire shall be installed in the same trench as the piping, tied or taped to the pipe every 5 to 8 feet in the 3 o’clock position or installed within 12 inches of the pipe in fill. One end of the wire shall terminate within 5 feet of the building served, at or above grade, accessible for use, and resistant to physical damage. Tracer wiring installations shall be tested by location with line tracing equipment upon completion of rough grading and again prior to final acceptance.”

(5) Subsection p2906.21 is amended by adding “push-fit joints shall not be installed below grade.” At the end of the section.

(6) New subsection p3002.2.2 is added as follows:

“P3002.2.2 Building sanitary sewer tracer wiring. Underground building sanitary sewer non-metallic piping shall be made detectable by the installation of tracer wiring that complies with public utilities article, § 12-129 of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The wire shall be an insulated copper tracer wire suitable for direct burial, at least 10 awg, or equivalent. Insulation shall be 30 mil minimum thickness, HMWPE or HDPE polyethylene, color coded green. The wire shall be installed in the same trench as the piping, tied or taped to the pipe every 5 to 8 feet in the 3 o’clock position or installed within 12 inches of the pipe in fill. One end of the wire shall terminate within 5 feet of the building served, at or above grade, accessible for use,

and resistant to physical damage. Tracer wiring installations shall be tested by location with line tracing equipment upon completion of rough grading and again prior to final acceptance.”

[(7) Subsection p3201.2.1.4 is deleted.

(8)](7) Subsection p3114.8 is amended by deleting the first sentence.

§ 202-11. On-site utility construction.

On-site utility construction regulated by the department of inspections, licenses and permits that is not covered by the provisions of § 202-10b of this chapter shall comply with the Harford County water and sewer regulations.

§ 202-12. Employee restrictions.

An official or employee connected with the department of inspections, licenses and permits, except one whose only connection is that of a member of the board of appeals, established under the provisions of appendix b of chapter 82 of the Harford County Code, a member of the Harford County Electrical Board, a member of the Harford County Plumbing Board or a member of the Harford County Mechanical Board, shall not be compensated in any manner, directly or indirectly, for the furnishing of labor, materials or appliances for the construction, alteration or maintenance of a building, or for the preparation of construction documents thereof, nor shall such official or employee engage in any work that conflicts with the interest of the department.

Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted that this Act shall take effect [60 calendar days from the date it becomes law] MAY 29, 2024.

EFFECTIVE: May 20, 2024

The Council Administrator does hereby certify that seven (7) copies of this Bill are immediately available for distribution to the public and the press.



Council Administrator