

ENROLLED

COUNTY COUNCIL OF WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

2025 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 16

Legislative Bill 2025- 12

Introduced: August 19, 2025

Introduced by: The Council President at the request of the County Executive.

AN ACT TO AMEND CHAPTER 138 OF THE WICOMICO COUNTY CODE TITLED “ELECTRICAL STANDARDS” TO REFLECT THE CURRENT EDITION OF THE NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE AND TO AMEND THE PROCESS OF PROMULGATION OF FUTURE EDITIONS.

WHEREAS, Wicomico County utilizes the National Electric Code, including all appendices thereof, as the respective electrical code for Wicomico County; and

WHEREAS, from time to time, the National Electrical Code, including all appendices thereof, are respectively amended and updated through the release of a new version; and

WHEREAS, until Wicomico County adopts the new versions, the old versions control as the electrical code for Wicomico County.

Section I. BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND, IN LEGISLATIVE SESSION, that Chapter 138 of the Wicomico County Code, titled “Electrical Standards” is hereby amended and shall read as follows:

Chapter 138

Electrical Standards

Article I

General Provisions

§ 138-2 Adoption of standards by reference.

~~There is hereby adopted by the County Council for the purpose of establishing rules and regulations for the installations, renewal, extension and reception of electrical wiring and electrical apparatus in existing buildings, structures or outdoor electrical displays or signs, or in the construction, reconstruction, alteration or repair of buildings, structures or outdoor electrical displays or signs, that certain code known as the “National Electrical Code,” as recommended by the National Fire Protection Association, being particularly the current edition thereof and the whole thereof, hereinafter referred to as the “National Electrical Code”; and the same is hereby adopted and incorporated as fully as if set out at length herein, and from the date on which this chapter shall take effect, the provisions~~

~~thereof and all amendments thereto shall be controlling for all existing and future electrical wiring and apparatus in buildings, structures or outdoor electrical displays or signs within the corporate limits of Wicomico County, Maryland.~~

A. ADOPTION OF THE CODE.

THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF WICOMICO COUNTY HEREBY ADOPTS THE PROVISIONS SET FORTH IN THE NATIONAL ELECTRIC CODE (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS "NEC"), 2023 EDITION, INCLUDING THE APPENDICES, AS THE ELECTRICAL CODE FOR WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND AND INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE. THE PROVISIONS SHALL BE CONTROLLING FOR ALL BUILDINGS WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND, UNLESS OTHERWISE EXEMPTED HEREIN.

B. PROMULGATION OF NEW EDITION AND ADOPTION BY WICOMICO COUNTY

1. WITHIN 180 DAYS OF PROMULGATION OF A NEW EDITION OF THE NEC BY THE NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION, THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, ZONING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT'S CHIEF BUILDING INSPECTOR SHALL REVIEW THE NEW EDITION WITH THE WICOMICO COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTRICAL EXAMINERS TO DETERMINE WHETHER ANY MODIFICATIONS ARE RECOMMENDED.

2. THE CHIEF BUILDING INSPECTOR AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE WICOMICO COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTRICAL EXAMINERS SHALL NOTIFY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND COUNTY COUNCIL, IN WRITING, OF SUGGESTED MODIFICATIONS TO THE NEW EDITION, IF ANY, AND THE JUSTIFICATION FOR EACH MODIFICATION. 180 DAYS FOLLOWING THE NOTIFICATION BY THE CHIEF BUILDING INSPECTOR AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD, ANY PROVISION OF THE NEW EDITION, TO INCLUDE APPENDICES, NOT MODIFIED BY LAW, SHALL BE ADOPTED AS THE ELECTRIC CODE FOR WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND AND INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE, BUT FOR THE PROVISIONS IN CONFLICT WITH THE MODIFICATIONS CODIFIED IN §138-2.1. PURSUANT TO SECTION 302 OF THE COUNTY CHARTER, THE NEW EDITION MAY BE MODIFIED AT ANY TIME.

3. UNTIL A NEW EDITION OF THE NEC IS PROMULGATED BY THE NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION AND ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION, THE FORMER EDITION OF THE NEC IS THE ELECTRIC CODE FOR WICOMICO COUNTY.

C. A LIST OF THE MOST CURRENT EDITION OF THE NEC, ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION B, IS AVAILABLE ON THE COUNTY WEBSITE AND IS AVAILABLE THROUGH VISTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, ZONING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

§ 138-2.1 MODIFICATIONS TO THE NATIONAL ELECTRIC CODE.

THE FOLLOWING MODIFICATIONS ARE MADE TO THE NATIONAL ELECTRIC CODE:

SECTION 210.8(f): OUTDOOR OUTLETS: THIS SECTION IS MODIFIED AS FOLLOWS:

EXCEPTION NUMBER 2: GFCI PROTECTION SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED FOR LISTED HVAC EQUIPMENT.

EXCEPTION NUMBER 3: GFCI PROTECTION SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED FOR LISTED FRESH WATER AND WASTE WATER EQUIPMENT.

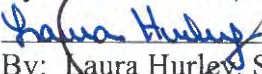
SECTION II: BE IT FURTHER ENACTED AND ORDAINED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND, IN LEGISLATIVE SESSION THAT this bill shall be known as Legislative Bill No. 2025-12 and shall take effect sixty (60) days after its enactment, unless a proper Petition for Referendum thereof shall be filed prior to said date; in which event, the Bill shall not take effect until the expiration of thirty (30) days following the approval of this Bill by a majority of the qualified voters of the County voting in any such referendum.

Certified correct as passed and adopted by the County Council of Wicomico County, Maryland this 16th day of September, 2025.

WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

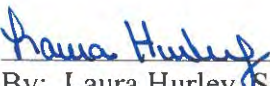
 (SEAL)

By: John Cannon, President

 (SEAL)

By: Laura Hurley, Secretary

I HEREBY CERTIFY that copies of the above Bill are available to the public, the press and other news media at the time of its introduction.

 (SEAL)

By: Laura Hurley, Secretary

Explanation:

~~Strike Out~~ indicates matters deleted from existing law.

CAPITALS INDICATE MATTERS ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

~~CAPITAL STRIKE OUT~~ indicates matter stricken from Bill by Amendment.

CAPITAL UNDERLINING indicates Amendments to Bill

COUNTY COUNCIL
OF
WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

2025 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 16

LEGISLATIVE BILL NO. 2025-12

INTRODUCED BY: The Council President at the request of the County Executive

LEGISLATIVE BILL NO. 2025-12: AN ACT to amend Chapter 138 of the Wicomico County Code titled "Electrical Standards" to reflect the current edition of the National Electrical Code and to amend the process of promulgation of future editions.

Introduced and read first time on August 19, 2025. Ordered posted and public hearing scheduled for September 16, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.



Laura Hurley, 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, the Bill was read for a second time at a public hearing held on September 16, 2025.



Laura Hurley, Council Administrator

CERTIFICATION: The undersigned hereby certifies that this Bill was Approved and Adopted by the County Council of Wicomico County, Maryland, on the 16th day of September, 2025.



Laura Hurley, Council Administrator

Presented to the County Executive for approval this 17th day of September, 2025, at 6:15 a.m./p.m. (5 days §411)



Laura Hurley, Council Administrator

BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE:



County Executive

APPROVED
Date: 9/18/2025
(21 days §411)

VETOED

Date: _____

BY THE COUNCIL:

Option One: This Bill, having been approved by the County Executive and returned to the Council, becomes law on September 18, 2025 and effective on: November 17, 2025 (60 days §311)

Option Two: This Bill, having received neither the approval nor the disapproval of the County Executive with 21 days of its presentation, stands enacted on _____ and becomes effective on _____ (60 days §311)

Option Three: This Bill, being exempt from the Executive Veto stands enacted on _____ and becomes effective on _____ (Charter Section 305)

ENROLLMENT: Legislative Bill No. 2025-12 is herewith submitted to the County Council of Wicomico County for enrollment as being the text as finally passed.



Laura Hurley, Council Administrator