

HOUSE BILL 153

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By: **Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee (By Request –
Departmental – Labor)**

Introduced and read first time: January 15, 2020

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Safety – Maryland Building Performance Standards**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the time within which the Maryland Department of Labor is
4 required to adopt each subsequent version of the Maryland Building Performance
5 Standards; and generally relating to the Maryland Building Performance Standards.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article – Public Safety
8 Section 12–503
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
12 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

13 **Article – Public Safety**

14 12–503.

15 (a) (1) The Department shall adopt by regulation, as the Maryland Building
16 Performance Standards, the International Building Code, including the International
17 Energy Conservation Code, with the modifications incorporated by the Department under
18 subsection (b) of this section.

19 (2) The Department shall adopt each subsequent version of the Standards
20 within [18] **36** months after it is issued.

21 (b) (1) Before adopting each version of the Standards, the Department shall:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(i) review the International Building Code to determine whether modifications should be incorporated in the Standards;

(ii) consider changes to the International Building Code to enhance energy conservation and efficiency;

(iii) subject to the provisions of paragraph (2)(ii) of this subsection, adopt modifications to the Standards that allow any innovative approach, design, equipment, or method of construction that can be demonstrated to offer performance that is at least the equivalent to the requirements of:

1. the International Energy Conservation Code;

2. Chapter 13, "Energy Efficiency", of the International Building Code; or

3. Chapter 11, "Energy Efficiency", of the International Residential Code;

(iv) accept written comments;

(v) consider any comments received; and

(vi) hold a public hearing on each proposed modification.

(2) (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph and § 12–510 of this subtitle, the Department may not adopt, as part of the Standards, a modification of a building code requirement that is more stringent than the requirement in the International Building Code.

(ii) The Department may adopt energy conservation requirements that are more stringent than the requirements in the International Energy Conservation Code, but may not adopt energy conservation requirements that are less stringent than the requirements in the International Energy Conservation Code.

(c) The Standards apply to each building or structure in the State for which a building permit application is received by a local jurisdiction on or after August 1, 1995.

(d) In addition to the Standards, the Department may adopt by regulation the International Green Construction Code.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2020.