


FROM	NAME & TITLE	Alfred H. Foxx, Director	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Public Works 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL 12-0123		

TO

DATE:
October 18, 2012

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Karen Randle
Room 400 – City Hall



I am herein reporting on City Council Bill 12-0123 introduced by the Council President on behalf of the Administration (Department of Housing and Community Development).

The purpose of the Bill is to adopt a revised Building, Fire, and Related Codes Article, comprising the Maryland Building Performance Standards (effective January 1, 2012), the International Building Code (2012 Edition), the International Electrical Code (2011 Edition), the International Fuel Gas Code (2012 Edition), the International Mechanical Code (2009 Edition), the International Plumbing Code (2012 Edition), the International Property Maintenance Code (2012 Edition), the International Fire Code (2012 Edition), the International Energy Conservation Code (2012 Edition), and the International Residential Code for One- and Two-Family Dwellings (2012 Edition), all as supplemented, amended, or otherwise modified by this Ordinance; provide for the effect, construction, and effective date of these new standards and codes; conform, correct, and clarify certain language; and generally relating to the adoption of new building, fire, property maintenance, electrical, plumbing, mechanical, and related codes for Baltimore City.

Periodically, the City reviews its building, property maintenance, mechanical, plumbing, and related codes and adopts revisions through an ordinance process. Revisions are necessary to keep these codes current and viable, by incorporating new standards, new materials, or new methods for compliance for the health and safety of our citizens. Such changes may be the result of Baltimore’s own experiences in administering the codes, or the result of changes proposed by national and international building officials and code administrators. The last revisions to these codes were adopted through Ordinance 11-419.

Initially, the model for these codes had been the National Building Code issued by the Building Officials and Code Administrators International, Inc., or BOCA. Prior to 1993, there was no standard building code for the State of Maryland. Enactment of the Maryland Building Performance Standards Act of 1993 required the State to adopt the BOCA codes and to adopt the most recent editions of the codes within 24 months of their issue date. Jurisdictions were also required to use the BOCA as a model for its codes beginning in 1985. In 2000, the Maryland Building Performance Standards Act was amended by the General Assembly to recognize the replacement of the BOCA National Building Code with the International Building Code, and it is this code that the State of Maryland now requires jurisdictions to adopt. City Council Bill 12-0123, if approved,

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will adopt the latest revisions to the International Building Codes for Baltimore's Building, Fire, and Related Codes.

In reviewing the legislation, this Department is recommending the following technical amendments to the Bill:

Amendment No. 1

Page 82, line 17, place a bracket after "3111.2" and remove the bracket after "entrances"; and on line 18 delete "Public Works" and replace with "Transportation and the permit requirements of the Department of General Services", so that it reads:

3112.2 [3111.2] Driveway entrances. All driveway entrances located on a public right-of-way must be constructed in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Department of ~~Public Works~~ Transportation and the permit requirements of the Department of General Services.

Amendment No. 2

Page 71, line 18, replace the word "adjourning" with "adjoining, so that it reads:

109.9.2 Notice to ~~adjourning~~ adjoining owners.

The Department of Public Works supports passage of City Council Bill 12-0123 as proposed to be amended.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alfred H. Foxx" with a small "for" written below the name.

ALFRED H. FOXX
DIRECTOR

AHF/MMC:ela