

FROM	NAME & TITLE	Theodore Atwood, Director
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of General Services 800 Abel Wolman Municipal Building
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL 12-0028

CITY of
BALTIMORE
MEMO



DATE: April 3, 2012

TO
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 12-0028 introduced by Council Members Kraft, Henry, Cole, Middleton, Stokes, Holton, Branch, Clarke, Spector, Welch, President young, Council Members Scott, and Curran.

The purpose of the Bill is to modify the authorized methods for complying with automatic-lighting-shutoff requirements; require the use of a room key to activate lighting in sleeping units of hotels, motels, boarding houses, and similar buildings; correct, clarify, and conform related provisions; and provide for the application of this Ordinance to all new construction or substantial improvements for which a permit application is filed on or after January 1, 2013.

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. 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. The last major revisions to Baltimore's codes were adopted through Ordinance 11-419. Included in these revisions was the adoption of the International Energy Conservation Code.

City Council Bill 12-0028, if approved, would modify Chapter 5 {Commercial Energy Efficiency} of the adopted International Energy Conservation Code to require the following for buildings larger than 5,000 square feet:

- Reduce from 30 minutes to 15 minutes the timing of an occupant sensor that turns lights off after an occupant leaves the covered area, or a control or alarm system indicating the area is unoccupied;
- Remove the ability to use a scheduled time-of-day, independent program to control interior lighting in areas not exceeding 25,000 square feet and only on one floor;

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- Remove the occupant override and automatic holiday scheduling provisions; and
- Require the use of a room key to activate lighting controls in a unit or suite of a hotel, motel, boarding house or similar building.

These proposed changes to the Commercial Energy Efficiency portion of the Code would take effect for new construction of a structure or substantial improvements to a structure for which a permit application is filed on or after January 1, 2013.

According to the Department of Energy, buildings account for about 40% of the total energy consumption in the U.S. The Department of General Services is responsible for the care and maintenance of more than 400 City-owned buildings and actively promotes energy efficient practices in these buildings and in our communities. Even though many of the City buildings are older structures and there are limited funds available, we have been able to save the City approximately \$6 million a year in energy costs by using energy savings to fund capital projects (energy performance contracts), securing some limited stimulus funds, and applying for and receiving grants.

It is important that citizens and the private sector also take measures to save energy as it is good for the planet and good for the wallet. The amendments proposed in City Council Bill 12-0028 are common sense measures that can produce significant energy savings. We would also urge the Committee to consider an amendment that would provide an exception for one receptacle in the sleeping units for uninterrupted charging of computers, cell phones and other electronic devices.

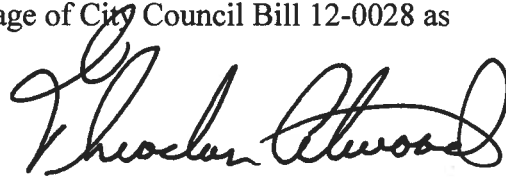
Amendment

On page 3, beginning in line 18, insert the phrase “for one receptacle in the sleeping unit(s) dedicated to the charging of electronic devices and” after the word “except” so that it reads:

505.2.3 Sleeping unit controls. Sleeping units in hotels, motels, boarding houses or similar buildings [shall] MUST have at least one master switch at the main entry door that controls all permanently wired luminaires and switched receptacles, except **FOR ONE RECEPTACLE IN THE SLEEPING UNIT(S) DEDICATED TO THE CHARGING OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND** those in the bathroom(s). Suites [shall] MUST have a control meeting these requirements at the entry to each room or at the primary entry to the suite. **THESE CONTROLS MUST BE CONFIGURED SO AS TO REQUIRE THE USE OF THE ROOM KEY TO ACTIVATE THE LIGHTING IN THE UNIT OR SUITE.**

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of the Baltimore City Council
April 3, 2012
Page 3

The Department of General Services supports passage of City Council Bill 12-0028 as proposed to be amended.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Theodore Atwood". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "A".

Theodore Atwood
Director

TA/MMC:pat