



MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

From: Alice Kennedy, Acting Housing Commissioner AK

Date: October 20, 2020

Re: City Council Bill 20-0630 Building, Fire, and Related Codes - Adoption of International Green Construction Code (2018)

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 20-0630 for the purpose of amending the Building, Fire, and Related Code Article to repeal the International Green Construction Code (2012 Edition) and substitute, subject to local additions, deletions, amendments and modifications, the International Green Construction Code (2018 Edition); and providing for the effective date, construction, and application of the new Green Construction Code.

If enacted, City Council Bill 20-0630 would bring the City's current 2102 version of the International Green Construction Code (IgCC) adopted in 2014, up to date and on pace with changes in accepted green building standards. An update to the code is necessary to keep all other adopted building codes consistent and coordinated. As with the 2012 adoption, the IgCC does not apply to 1 and 2 family dwellings or smaller multifamily dwellings.

City Council Bill 20-0630 brings one chapter up to date with the rest of the Baltimore City Building Fire and Related Codes (BFRC), approved earlier this year. The IgCC applies to construction requirements intended to reduce the negative impacts and increase the positive impacts of the built environment on the natural environment, and for the benefit of building occupants.

City Council Bill 20-0630 would expand the alternate compliance paths for 3rd party green building certifications to include Green Globes, similar to state rules from the MD Green building Council for state funded projects. Since the IgCC is part of the ICC code family and acts as an overlay code to the City's existing International Building Code (IBC), it will be easier for applicants to comply with the green building law without the expense of using a 3rd party certification green building standard.

Montgomery County, another jurisdiction with a mandatory green building law, is also adopting the 2018 IgCC with amendments. The State will also be adopting the 2018 IgCC with a combination of Baltimore City and Montgomery County amendments for all state funded work including colleges.



DHCD has consulted with code experts and industry professionals to ensure the update would work for individuals building in the City of Baltimore.

DHCD **supports** the passage of City Council Bill 20-0630.

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cc: Mr. Blendy, Nicholas, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*