

Introduced \_\_\_\_\_  
Public Hearing \_\_\_\_\_  
Council Action \_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Action \_\_\_\_\_  
Effective Date \_\_\_\_\_

## County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2024 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. **3**

### Bill No. 11 -2024

Introduced by: The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Adopting the 2023 National Electrical Code and local amendments.

Title: AN ACT adopting the 2023 National Electrical Code as the Electrical Code for Howard County; regulating the design, construction, alteration, improvement or modification to electrical equipment; adopting certain local amendments to the Electrical Code; making certain technical corrections; and generally relating to the electrical code in Howard County.

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Introduced and read first time \_\_\_\_\_, 2024. Ordered posted and hearing scheduled.

By order \_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Having been posted and notice of time & place of hearing & title of Bill having been published according to Charter, the Bill was read for a second time at a public hearing on \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

By order \_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

This Bill was read the third time on \_\_\_\_\_, 2024 and Passed \_\_\_\_, Passed with amendments \_\_\_\_\_, Failed \_\_\_\_\_.

By order \_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this \_\_\_\_day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024 at \_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m.

By order \_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Approved/Vetoed by the County Executive \_\_\_\_\_, 2024

\_\_\_\_\_  
Calvin Ball, County Executive

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; ~~Strike-out~~ indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.

1 **Section 1. Be It Enacted** by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that the  
2 Howard County Code is amended as follows:

3 *By repealing and reenacting:*

4 *Title 3. Buildings.*

5 *Section 3.214. Adoption of National Electrical Code.*

6  
7 **Title 3. Buildings.**

8 **Subtitle 2. Electrical Regulations.**

9  
10 **SECTION 3.214. ADOPTION OF NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE.**

11 (A) (1) THE 2023 EDITION OF THE NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE (NFPA 70), WITH  
12 AMENDMENTS AS LISTED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, IS HEREBY  
13 ADOPTED AS THE ELECTRICAL CODE FOR HOWARD COUNTY, AS IF THE  
14 NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE WERE SET OUT IN FULL IN THIS SECTION.

15 (2) A PERSON PERFORMING OR CAUSING THE PERFORMANCE OF ELECTRICAL  
16 WORK SHALL CONFORM TO THE HOWARD COUNTY ELECTRICAL CODE AND  
17 TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE HOWARD COUNTY BUILDING CODE ADOPTED IN  
18 TITLE 3, SUBTITLE 1 OF THIS CODE.

19 (3) IF A CONFLICT EXISTS BETWEEN THE HOWARD COUNTY BUILDING CODE  
20 AND THE HOWARD COUNTY ELECTRICAL CODE, THE CODE REQUIRING THE  
21 MORE STRINGENT STANDARD SHALL GOVERN.

22 (B) THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS MODIFY CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE ADOPTED CODE:

23 (1) *SECTION 90.4. ENFORCEMENT.*

24 ADD A SENTENCE AT THE END OF SUBSECTION (A) AS FOLLOWS: "IF THERE  
25 IS A CONFLICT BETWEEN THIS SECTION AND ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS  
26 SUBTITLE, THE REQUIREMENT OF THE OTHER PROVISION SHALL GOVERN."

27 (2) *ARTICLE 100. DEFINITIONS.*

28 DELETE THE SENTENCE FOLLOWING "AUTHORITY HAVING JURISDICTION  
29 (AHJ)." AND SUBSTITUTE THE FOLLOWING, "THE AUTHORITY HAVING  
30 JURISDICTION IS THE BUILDING OFFICIAL AS SET FORTH IN SECTION  
31 3.101(A)(2) OF THIS CODE.

- 1           (3)    *SECTION 230.85. EMERGENCY DISCONNECTS.*  
2                    ADD EXCEPTION TO ITEM (A)(1) AS FOLLOWS: “EXCEPTION NO. 2: WHERE  
3                    PHYSICAL AND PRACTICAL LIMITATIONS PREVENT AN OUTDOOR  
4                    DISCONNECT, THE AHJ MAY APPROVE AN ALTERNATIVE LOCATION”.
- 5           (4)    *SECTION 240.21. LOCATION IN CIRCUIT.*  
6                    AMEND SUBSECTION (B)(1), TAPS NOT OVER 3 M (10FT) LONG, BY ADDING A  
7                    SECOND EXCEPTION TO ITEM (1) UNDER SUBSECTION (B)(1) AND A NEW  
8                    EXCEPTION TO SUBSECTION (B)(2), TAPS NOT OVER 7.5 M (25 FT) LONG AS  
9                    FOLLOWS:  
10                    “EXCEPTION: IN METER ROOMS, THE CONDUCTORS WITHIN THE AUXILIARY  
11                    GUTTER THAT SUPPLIES THE METER SHALL NOT COUNT AS A PART OF THE  
12                    TOTAL LENGTH.”
- 13          (5)    *SECTION 250.52. GROUNDING ELECTRODES.*  
14                    ADD THE FOLLOWING TO THE BEGINNING OF SUBSECTION 250.52(A)(3):  
15                    “CONCRETE-ENCASED ELECTRODES: EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE APPROVED BY  
16                    THE AHJ, THE PRINCIPAL GROUNDING ELECTRODE FOR A NEW STRUCTURE IS  
17                    A CONCRETE ENCASED ELECTRODE INSTALLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS  
18                    SUBSECTION.”
- 19          (6)    *SECTION 310.3. CONDUCTORS.*  
20                    IN SUBSECTION (A) MINIMUM SIZE OF CONDUCTORS, AFTER “14 AWG  
21                    COPPER OR”, DELETE “12” AND SUBSTITUTE “4”.
- 22          (7)    *SECTION 314.27. OUTLET BOXES*  
23                    ADD THE FOLLOWING TO SUBSECTION 314.27(C), SECOND PARAGRAPH,  
24                    AFTER “CEILING-SUSPENDED (PADDLE) FAN”, INSERT “OR WITHIN 3FT OFF  
25                    OF THE NEAREST WALL.”
- 26          (8)    *ANNEX H. ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT.*  
27                    ONLY THE PROVISIONS OF SUBSECTION 80.9 ARE ADOPTED. THE REMAINDER  
28                    OF ANNEX H IS SPECIFICALLY AND INTENTIONALLY NOT ADOPTED.

29  
30    ***Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted*** by the County Council of Howard County,  
31    *Maryland, that this Act shall become effective 61 days after its enactment.*