

Introduced 3/2/15
Public Hearing 3/16/15
Council Action 4/6/15
Executive Action 4/9/15
Effective Date 6/9/15

County Council Of Howard County, Maryland

2015 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 3

Bill No. 9 -2015

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

AN ACT adopting the 2014 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; amending the qualifications for appointment to the Board of Electrical Examiners; clarifying the timing of certain license exams; clarifying the signatories on certain applications; making certain technical corrections; and generally relating to the electrical code in Howard County.

Introduced and read first time March 2, 2015. Ordered posted and hearing scheduled.

By order

Jessica Feldmark
Jessica Feldmark, 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 March 16, 2015.

By order

Jessica Feldmark
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

This Bill was read the third time on April 6, 2015 and Passed ☒, Passed with amendments ☐, Failed ☐.

By order

Jessica Feldmark
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this 8th day of April, 2015 at 11:45 a.m./p.m.

By order

Jessica Feldmark
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator

Approved/Vetoed by the County Executive April 9, 2015

Allan Kittleman
Allan Kittleman, 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 amending:*

4 1. *Title 3. Buildings.*

5 *Subtitle 2. Electrical Regulations.*

6 *Section 3.202. Board of Electrical Examiners.*

7 *Subsection (c)*
8

9 2. *Title 3. Buildings.*

10 *Subtitle 2. Electrical Regulations.*

11 *Section 3.203. License required to do electrical work.*

12 *Subsection (b)*
13

14 3. *Title 3. Buildings.*

15 *Subtitle 2. Electrical Regulations.*

16 *Section 3.208. License examinations.*

17 *Subsection (a)*
18

19 4. *Title 3. Buildings.*

20 *Subtitle 2. Electrical Regulations.*

21 *Section 3.218. Permit application.*

22 *Subtitle (a)*
23

24 *By repealing and reenacting:*

25 1. *Title 3. Buildings.*

26 *Subtitle 2. Electrical Regulations.*

27 *Section 3.214. Adoption of National Electrical Code.*
28

29 **Title 3. Buildings.**

30 **Subtitle 2. Electrical Regulations.**
31

1 **Section 3.202. Board of Electrical Examiners.**

2 (c) *Qualifications for Appointment:*

- 3 (1) All members shall be residents of Howard County.
- 4 (2) ~~[[Two]]~~FOUR members shall be licensed pursuant to this subtitle.
- 5 (3) One member shall be an electrical engineer.
- 6 (4) ~~[[Four]]~~TWO members shall be selected from the general public.

7

8 **Section 3.203. License required to do electrical work.**

9 (b) *Electrical Work Performed by a Firm or Corporation.* Except as exempted by (c) of
10 this section, a firm or corporation may not do electrical work unless its principal(s) are
11 licensed to ~~[[do so pursuant to]]~~ PERFORM ELECTRICAL WORK UNDER this subtitle or unless
12 it employs an individual licensed to ~~[[do so]]~~ PERFORM ELECTRICAL WORK UNDER THIS
13 SUBTITLE.

14

15 **Section 3.208. License examinations.**

16 (a) *When Examinations Are Given.* ~~[[Examinations shall be given twice a year, during~~
17 ~~March and September. The Board shall set the exact date(s)]]~~THE BOARD SHALL SET THE
18 DATE FOR ALL PUBLIC SCHEDULED EXAMINATIONS. ~~[[Special]]~~INDIVIDUAL examinations
19 may be given at any time by~~[[the Board in its discretion]]~~THE DIRECTOR OF THE
20 DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONS, LICENSES, AND PERMITS OR THE DIRECTOR'S AUTHORIZED
21 DESIGNEE.

22

23 **SECTION 3.214. ADOPTION OF NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE.**

- 24 (A) (1) THE 2014 EDITION (NFPA 70) OF THE NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE, WITH
25 AMENDMENTS AS LISTED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, IS HEREBY
26 ADOPTED AS THE ELECTRICAL CODE FOR HOWARD COUNTY, AS IF THE
27 NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE WERE SET OUT IN FULL IN THIS SECTION.
- 28 (2) A PERSON PERFORMING OR CAUSING THE PERFORMANCE OF ELECTRICAL
29 WORK SHALL CONFORM TO THE HOWARD COUNTY ELECTRICAL CODE AND
30 TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE HOWARD COUNTY BUILDING CODE ADOPTED IN
31 TITLE 3, SUBTITLE 1 OF THIS CODE.

1 (3) IF A CONFLICT EXISTS BETWEEN THE HOWARD COUNTY BUILDING CODE
2 AND THE HOWARD COUNTY ELECTRICAL CODE, THE CODE REQUIRING THE
3 HIGHER STANDARD SHALL GOVERN.

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

5 (1) *SECTION 90.4. ENFORCEMENT.*

6 ADD A SENTENCE AT THE END OF THIS SECTION AS FOLLOWS: "IF THERE IS A
7 CONFLICT BETWEEN THIS SECTION AND ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS
8 SUBTITLE, THE REQUIREMENT OF THE OTHER PROVISION SHALL GOVERN."

9 (2) *ARTICLE 100. DEFINITIONS.*

10 DELETE THE SENTENCE FOLLOWING "AUTHORITY HAVING JURISDICTION
11 (AHJ)." AND SUBSTITUTE THE FOLLOWING, "THE AUTHORITY HAVING
12 JURISDICTION IS THE BUILDING OFFICIAL AS SET FORTH IN SECTION
13 3.101(A)(2) OF THIS CODE.

14 (3) *SECTION 210.8. GROUND-FAULT CIRCUIT-INTERRUPTER PROTECTION FOR*
15 *PERSONNEL.*

16 IN SUBSECTION (A), DWELLING UNITS, ADD EXCEPTION NUMBER 1 AS
17 FOLLOWS:

18 EXCEPTION NO. 1: A SINGLE RECEPTACLE THAT SUPPLIES SUMP PUMPS,
19 CONDENSATE PUMPS, AND SEWER EJECTOR PUMPS IS NOT REQUIRED TO
20 HAVE GROUND-FAULT CIRCUIT-INTERRUPTER PROTECTION.

21 (4) *SECTION 210.12. ARC-FAULT CIRCUIT-INTERRUPTER PROTECTION.* IN
22 SUBSECTION (A), DWELLING UNITS, ADD EXCEPTION NUMBER 2 AS
23 FOLLOWS:

24 EXCEPTION NO. 2: THE ADDITIONAL AREAS OF COVERAGE, "KITCHENS" AND
25 "LAUNDRY AREAS", SHALL COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS
26 SUBSECTION (A) BY JANUARY 1, 2017.

27 (5) *SECTION 210.12. ARC-FAULT CIRCUIT-INTERRUPTER PROTECTION.*

28 IN SUBSECTION (B), BRANCH CIRCUIT EXTENSIONS OR MODIFICATIONS –
29 DWELLING UNITS, ADD EXCEPTION NUMBER 2 AS FOLLOWS:

30 EXCEPTION NO. 2: ARC-FAULT-CIRCUIT-INTERRUPTER PROTECTION IS NOT
31 REQUIRED FOR NEWLY INSTALLED 120 VOLT SMOKE DETECTORS.

- 1 (6) *SECTION 230.71. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF DISCONNECTS.*
2 IN SUBSECTION (A), GENERAL, DELETE “FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS
3 SECTION,” THROUGH THE END OF NUMBER (4), INCLUSIVE.
- 4 (7) *SECTION 240.21. LOCATION IN CIRCUIT.*
5 AMEND SUBSECTION (B), FEEDER TAPS, BY ADDING A SECOND EXCEPTION
6 TO ITEM (B)(1) AND A NEW EXCEPTION TO ITEM (B)(2) AS FOLLOWS:
7 EXCEPTION: IN METER ROOMS, THE CONDUCTORS WITHIN THE AUXILIARY
8 GUTTER THAT SUPPLIES THE METER SHALL NOT COUNT AS A PART OF THE
9 TOTAL LENGTH.”
- 10 (8) *SECTION 250.52. GROUNDING ELECTRODES.* ADD THE FOLLOWING TO THE
11 BEGINNING OF SUBSECTION 250.52(A)(3):
12 “CONCRETE-ENCASED ELECTRODES: EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE APPROVED BY
13 THE DEPARTMENT, THE PRINCIPAL GROUNDING ELECTRODE FOR A NEW
14 STRUCTURE IS A CONCRETE ENCASED ELECTRODE INSTALLED IN
15 ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBSECTION.”
- 16 (9) *SECTION 310.106. CONDUCTORS.*
17 ADD THE FOLLOWING AT THE END OF SUBSECTION (A), MINIMUM SIZE OF
18 CONDUCTORS:
19 “WHETHER SOLID OR STRANDED, A CONDUCTOR SHALL NOT BE SMALLER
20 THAN NUMBER 14 COPPER, NUMBER 12 COPPERCLAD ALUMINUM, OR
21 NUMBER 6 ALUMINUM OR ALUMINUM ALLOY.”
- 22 (10) *SECTION 334.10. USES PERMITTED.*
23 IN ITEM (3), AFTER “ASSEMBLIES.”, INSERT “CABLES INSTALLED WITHIN
24 DROP OR SUSPENDED CEILINGS WITHOUT A THERMAL BARRIER ARE
25 PERMITTED.”.
- 26 (11) *SECTION 334.12. USES NOT PERMITTED.*
27 IN SUBSECTION (A)(2):
28 (I) STRIKE “TWO-FAMILY AND MULTIFAMILY” AND SUBSTITUTE “TWO-
29 FAMILY, MULTIFAMILY”; AND
30 (II) AFTER “DWELLINGS”, INSERT “, AND TYPE III, IV, AND V
31 STRUCTURES.”

1 (12) *ANNEX H. ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT.*

2 ONLY THE PROVISIONS OF SUBSECTION 80.9 ARE ADOPTED. THE REMAINDER
3 OF ANNEX H IS SPECIFICALLY AND INTENTIONALLY NOT ADOPTED.
4

5 **Section 3.218. Permit application.**

6 (a) An application for a permit shall:

- 7 (1) Identify and describe the work to be covered by the permit;
8 (2) Describe the property where the proposed work is to be done by legal
9 description, street address, or other address that will identify the location
10 of the proposed electrical work;
11 (3) Indicate the use and occupancy for the location of the proposed work;
12 (4) Be accompanied by construction documents that shall:
13 (i) Be drawn to scale with sufficient clarity and detail to show the
14 nature and character of the work to be performed;
15 (ii) BE SIGNED IN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING METHODS:
16 A. [[Bear the seal, signature, and date of the]] THE appropriate
17 Maryland State professional engineer [[or architect]] SHALL
18 SEAL, SIGN, AND DATE [[that shall be affixed to]] all sheets
19 of all sets; OR
20 [[(iii)]] B. IF ALLOWED BY THE BUILDING OFFICIAL, be signed by
21 the licensed contractor doing the proposed work and
22 [[shall]] include that contractor's name, license number,
23 daytime phone number, and date of signature; and
24 ([[iv]]III)Have at least one set that shall bear the original seal
25 OR[[,]]signature[[,]] and THE date;
26 (5) State the valuation of the proposed work;
27 (6) Be signed by the Applicant or the Applicant's authorized agent; and
28 (7) Give other information as may be required by the Building Official.
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.***

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been approved by the Executive and returned to the Council, stands enacted on

April 9, 2015.

Jessica Feldmark
Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been passed by the yeas and nays of two-thirds of the members of the Council notwithstanding the objections of the Executive, stands enacted on _____, 2015.

Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having received neither the approval nor the disapproval of the Executive within ten days of its presentation, stands enacted on _____, 2015.

Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, not having been considered on final reading within the time required by Charter, stands failed for want of consideration on _____, 2015.

Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been disapproved by the Executive and having failed on passage upon consideration by the Council stands failed on _____, 2015.

Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, the withdrawal of which received a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Council, is withdrawn from further consideration on _____, 2015.

Jessica Feldmark, Administrator to the County Council

CB 9 - 2015
CB 10 - 2015



HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONS, LICENSES AND PERMITS

3430 Courthouse Drive

■ Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

■ 410-313-2433

Robert J. Frances, P.E., Director
bfrances@howardcountymd.gov

FAX 410-313-3298
TDD 410-313-2323

Subject: Testimony Regarding Adoption of 2015 Building Codes and 2014 National Electrical Code

To: Lonnie Robbins
Chief Administrative Officer

From: Robert J. Frances, P.E., Director
Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits

Date: February 19, 2015

The Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits has proposed legislation to adopt the 2015 version of the Howard County Building Code. The intent of this legislation is to update the model codes with the most recent editions. This will keep Howard County up to date with the latest codes that are currently being used in the construction industry.

This code adoption will also update the International Energy Conservation Code to the 2015 Edition (IECC). By State law, we are not allowed to adopt amendments that lessen the requirements of the IECC. This edition did not increase energy efficiency that has been the trend in the two previous editions of the code.

The Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits has proposed legislation to adopt the 2014 Edition of the National Electrical Code (NEC) as the Howard County Electrical Code. We have made very few changes, mostly corrective language to maintain current construction practices. The only significant amendment change is delaying the implementation of arc fault circuit interrupters in kitchens and laundry areas to allow industry products to become more readily available.

The amendments as proposed enable us to stay current with the most up to date construction codes and allow us to maintain our current construction practices. I have attached a detailed list of all code changes that were made and are different from the previously approved code amendments. If you have any questions, I can be reached at ext 3946.

Copy: Donald L. Mock, P.E., Chief, DILP Plan Review
Jennifer Sager, County Administration

Proposed Code Changes to the Building Code and Electrical Code

The Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits propose the following changes to the Howard County Building Code.

- 1) Update all code references from the 2012 Edition to the 2015 Edition.
- 2) Section 105.2 is eliminating the current amendment for fences greater than 6 feet high and going with the National Standard of 7 feet high for when a permit is required.
- 3) Removed current amendment to Section 310.3-310.5 because the National Standard now addresses the issue without the local amendments being required.
- 4) Sections 903.2.1.6 and 903.2.1.7 were added to the 2015 IBC. Those provisions refer to assembly occupancies on roofs and multiple fire areas and require sprinklers for occupancy loads greater than 300. These new sections are inconsistent with past adopted local amendments that have required sprinklers for occupancy loads greater than 100 for assembly occupancies. This bill includes local amendments consistent with previously adopted local amendments to change the occupant load from 300 to 100 for these new sections.
- 5) Current amendment to Section 910.2.1 was deleted because the National Code has come into line with our past amendment. Table 910.2.2 was added from the 2012 Edition of the code because the new edition references a Table in the International Fire Code, which is a code we do not adopt.
- 6) Table 1607.1 was updated to conform to a County roof design load that has been in effect for over 30 years.
- 7) Section R302.2 was updated to maintain current construction practices regarding separation walls in townhouses.
- 8) Section R101.2.3 and R326.1 updated to maintain current code requirements for swimming pools without having to adopt an additional code that addresses swimming pools.
- 9) M1503.1 of the International Residential Code and 402.1 of the International Mechanical Code added another option to cross ventilation that will allow a window within 12 feet of the range cooking surface as an acceptable venting alternative.

Proposed Changes to the Electrical regulations and 2014 National Electrical Code

- 1) Section 3.202 was updated to change the qualifications for Electrical Board members to allow four licensed contractors instead of two licensed contractors. The general public representatives were changed from four to just two members from the general public. This will put the County in line with the state board and make it easier to find qualified members for the electrical board.
- 2) Section 3.208 revised to reflect current practices in administering the exam.
- 3) Section 210.12 was amended in exception number (2) to allow delay enforcement of this Section until January 1, 2017 because currently the industry has not adequately produced the product needed at this time to meet the requirements of this Section.