

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
Legislative Session 2023, Legislative Day No. 13

Bill No. 43-23

Councilmembers Marks & Jones

By the County Council, June 5, 2023

A BILL
ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

The Fire Prevention Code of Baltimore County – Speculative Warehouse Sprinkler System
Design

FOR the purpose of ~~permitting a limited exemption for certain historic buildings used as a
warehouse that store certain plastics only in a portion of the building from the application
of a certain building wide~~ updating speculative warehouse sprinkler system design
requirements of the Fire Prevention Code of Baltimore County under certain circumstances
and generally relating to the Fire Prevention Code of Baltimore County.

BY repealing and re-enacting, with amendments

1:13.3.2.27.6 Speculative Warehouse Automatic Sprinkler System Design
NFPA 1: Fire Code, 2018 Edition
Chapter 13. Fire Protection Systems
Fire Prevention Code of Baltimore County, as adopted by Bill 14-21

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from bill.
Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE
2 COUNTY, MARYLAND, that the following section of the NFPA 1: Fire Code, 2018 Edition, as
3 part of the “Fire Prevention Code Of Baltimore County” adopted by Bill 14-21 shall be amended
4 to read as follows:

5
6 Fire Prevention Code of Baltimore County

7 Chapter 13. Fire Protection Systems

8
9 1:13.3.2.27.6. Speculative Warehouse Automatic Sprinkler System Design.

10 The following criteria shall be incorporated into the design of automatic sprinkler
11 systems proposed for new or renovated speculative warehouse buildings ~~UNLESS~~
12 ~~SPECIFICALLY EXEMPTED UNDER SUBSECTION (3) BELOW.~~

13 (1) The system shall be designed to protect:

14 ~~(a) NFPA 13 group “a” plastics in solid piles, bin box, shelf, or back-to-~~
15 ~~back shelf storage, protected for the maximum possible storage height for the building.~~

16 ~~(b) NFPA 13 group “a” plastics using in-rack sprinklers and designed to~~
17 ~~provide an additional 300 gpm at the base of riser. Design to maximum possible storage height~~
18 ~~for the building.~~

19 (A) NFPA 13 CLASS IV COMMODITIES IN SOLID PILES
20 PROTECTED FOR THE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE STORAGE HEIGHT FOR THE BUILDING
21 OR UP TO A MAXIMUM STORAGE HEIGHT OF 12 FEET FOR AN EXISTING HISTORIC
22 BUILDING, DEFINED AS A BUILDING THAT IS ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF
23 HISTORIC PLACES OR IS SUBJECT TO A MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST DEED OF

1 EASEMENT, THAT IS AT LEAST 500,000 SQUARE FEET IN SIZE;

2 (B) NFPA 13 CLASS IV COMMODITIES IN-RACK STORAGE WITH
3 8 FEET AISLES WITH NO IN-RACK SPRINKLERS; AND

4 (C) NFPA 13 GROUP “A” PLASTICS USING IN-RACK SPRINKLERS
5 AND DESIGNED TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL 300 GPM AT THE BASE OF THE
6 RISER.

7 (2) If ESFR sprinklers are used, the design criteria shall be based on the full
8 height of the building and storage height limit. An additional 500 gpm shall be added at the base
9 of riser for in-rack sprinklers when the ESFR table in NFPA 13 requires in-racks due to k-factor
10 or height of building. A permanent metal or rigid plastic sign shall be provided at the riser
11 stating the commodity class protected, storage arrangement, and maximum storage height. A
12 facsimile of the sign shall be submitted with the sprinkler plans. The minimum design shall be
13 based on storage of group “a” plastic up to 20 feet but shall not be less than the storage height
14 that the building is able to accommodate.

15 ~~(3) A HISTORIC BUILDING, DEFINED AS A BUILDING ON THE~~
16 ~~NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES OR A BUILDING FOR WHICH THE~~
17 ~~MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST HAS A DEED OF EASEMENT, THAT IS AT LEAST~~
18 ~~500,000 SQUARE FEET IN SIZE SHALL BE EXEMPT FROM COMPLIANCE WITH THE~~
19 ~~CRITERIA SET FORTH IN SUBSECTIONS (1) AND (2) ABOVE. WHERE SPRINKLER~~
20 ~~PROTECTION IS REQUIRED BY OTHER SECTIONS OF THE FIRE PREVENTION CODE~~
21 ~~OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, AN NFPA 13 COMPLIANT SYSTEM SHALL BE PROVIDED~~
22 ~~BASED ON PROPOSED TENANT OCCUPANCY AND HAZARD.~~

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that this Act, having been passed by
2 the affirmative vote of five members of the County Council, shall take effect 14 days from the
3 date of enactment.



LEGISLATION DETAIL

LEGISLATION _____

DISPOSITION _____

ENACTED _____

EFFECTIVE _____

AMENDMENTS _____

ROLL CALL - LEGISLATION

MOTION		SECOND
AYE	NAY	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Councilman Young
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Councilman Patoka
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Councilman Kach
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Councilman Jones
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Councilman Marks
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Councilman Ertel
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Councilman Crandell

ROLL CALL - AMENDMENTS

MOTION		SECOND
AYE	NAY	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Councilman Young
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