

HOUSE BILL 926

E4

4lr2164
CF 4lr3240

By: **Delegate Griffith**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2024

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Building Performance Standards – Local Requests for Guidance –**
3 **Religious Considerations**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Department of Labor, on request of a local
5 jurisdiction and in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General, to provide
6 guidance for the implementation and enforcement of the Maryland Building
7 Performance Standards in relation to any religious observance, practice, or belief;
8 and generally relating to the Maryland Building Performance Standards.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Public Safety
11 Section 12–507
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
15 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article – Public Safety**

17 12–507.

18 (a) The Department may:

19 (1) develop a voluntary forum that may be used, on request of a local
20 jurisdiction, to resolve conflicts that involve the Standards; and

21 (2) adopt regulations to carry out this subtitle.

22 (b) The Department:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (1) shall notify each local jurisdiction of each change to the International
2 Building Code and the impact the change will have on the local amendments in that local
3 jurisdiction;

4 (2) in conjunction with the Maryland Building Officials Association and
5 other interested organizations, shall provide training for local building officials on the
6 Standards and certify the participation of local building officials in the training; [and]

7 (3) on request, shall provide a local jurisdiction with technical assistance
8 to implement and enforce the Standards; AND

9 **(4) ON REQUEST BY A LOCAL JURISDICTION AND IN CONSULTATION**
10 **WITH THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, SHALL PROVIDE GUIDANCE FOR**
11 **THE IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE STANDARDS IN RELATION TO**
12 **ANY RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE, PRACTICE, OR BELIEF.**

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
14 October 1, 2024.