



ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY GOVERNMENT RELATIONS OFFICE

Legislative and Fiscal Summary of Administration Legislation

To: Members, Anne Arundel County Council

From: Ethan Hunt, Director of Government Affairs /s/

Date: February 17, 2026

Subject: Bill No. 13-26 – Construction and Property Maintenance Codes
Supplement – Fire Prevention Code Amendments

This summary was prepared by the Anne Arundel County Government Relations Office for use by members of the Anne Arundel County Council during consideration of Bill No. 13-26.

Summary

This legislation, introduced at the request of the Administration on behalf of the Fire Department, updates the Anne Arundel County Fire Prevention Code by adopting the 2024 NFPA 1 and NFPA 101, produced by the National Fire Protection Association. The current Anne Arundel County Fire Prevention Code adopts the 2018 editions of NFPA 1 and NFPA 101, which are now two full code cycles out of date. The legislation addresses the need to maintain alignment with the most current nationally recognized fire and life safety standards, reflect technological advancements, and ensure consistency with the Maryland State Fire Prevention Code. Adopting the 2024 editions ensures the County's requirements remain relevant to current construction methods, emerging technologies, and public safety needs. Adopting the 2024 editions of NFPA 1 and NFPA 101 is the most appropriate solution because it provides an up-to-date and comprehensive set of enforceable standards recognized statewide. This action harmonizes the County's Fire Prevention Code with the Maryland State Fire Prevention Code and the State Fire Code Update Committee's recommendations. It ensures uniformity in interpretation and enforcement while reducing potential conflicts between County and State requirements. The intended outcomes include:

1. maintaining consistency with the Maryland State Fire Prevention Code and current NFPA standards;
2. enhancing public and firefighter safety through adoption of the latest life safety requirements;
3. addressing new technologies and materials, such as energy storage systems and photovoltaic installations;

Note: This Legislative and Fiscal Summary provides a synopsis of the legislation as introduced. It does not address subsequent amendments to the legislation.

4. streamlining enforcement by repealing obsolete local amendments and aligning definitions and administrative provisions with State standards; and
5. providing clear guidance for plan review, inspection, and enforcement activities conducted by the Office of the Fire Marshal.

The primary alternative considered to adopting the 2024 editions was maintaining the current adoption of the 2018 editions. However, this option was not selected because those editions no longer reflect the latest safety research, national best practices, or State-level standards. Retaining outdated codes would result in inconsistencies with the Maryland State Fire Prevention Code and could hinder effective enforcement and coordination across jurisdictions. The Office of the Fire Marshal coordinated extensively with the Maryland State Fire Marshal's Office, the State Fire Code Update Committee, the State Fire Prevention Commission, and the Anne Arundel County Office of Inspections and Permits. Feedback supported the proposed adoption to maintain statewide consistency and ensure the County's code reflects the most current NFPA standards. No objections were received during outreach.

This legislation updates and replaces Bill 95-20 (2020), which adopted the 2018 editions. The new legislation repeals obsolete language from Bill 95-20, incorporates administrative improvements for clarity and consistency, and reflects subsequent NFPA and State updates through the 2024 cycle. It does not modify the intent of the previous bill but modernizes it to maintain alignment with current safety standards. The legislation references publicly available NFPA publications adopted by reference.

Purpose

The purpose of this legislation is to update the Anne Arundel County Fire Prevention Code by adopting the 2024 NFPA 1 and NFPA 101, replacing the 2018 editions.

Fiscal Impact

Please see the Fiscal Note the Budget Office prepared for a full explanation of the fiscal impact of this bill.

Additional Information

The Government Relations Office is available to answer any additional questions regarding this Bill. Specific questions should be directed to Captain Donna McGuire, Fire Department, or Lori Blair Klasmeier, Office of Law. Thank you.

cc: Honorable Steuart Pittman, County Executive
Christine Anderson, Chief Administrative Officer
Jenny Proebstle, Chief of Staff
Gregory Swain, County Attorney
Chris Trumbauer, Budget Officer
Chief Trish Wolford, Fire Department
Captain Donna McGuire, Fire Department