Chapter 205

(Senate Bill 1033)

AN ACT concerning

Maryland Building Performance Standards – Local Requests for Guidance – Religious Considerations

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

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

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

Article – Public Safety

12–507.

(a)   The Department may:

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

(2)   adopt regulations to carry out this subtitle.

(b)   The Department:

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

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

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

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

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

Approved by the Governor, April 25, 2024.