



ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

Jenna Guzman, Communications Director

SMCG TV 95 Station Manager

Media Inquiries: 301-475-4200, ext. 1342, or PIO@stmaryscountymd.gov

COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY

James R. Guy, President

Mike Alderson, Jr., Commissioner

Eric S. Colvin, Commissioner

Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner

Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner

NEWS RELEASE *for Immediate Release*

No. 2024 – 119

July 9, 2024, 3:45 p.m.

Updates to Local Building Code Ordinance Effective July 15

LEONARDTOWN, MD – During their business meeting on June 25, 2024, the Commissioners of St. Mary's County (SMCG) approved proposed updates to the local Building Code Ordinance to repeal and reenact Chapter 203 entitled, "Building Construction" and repeal Chapter 223 Article IV entitled, "Inspection Fees." **These changes will take effect on July 15, 2024.**

The approved updates will incorporate the following codes:

- 2021 International Building Code (IBC)
- 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC)
- 2021 International Existing Building Code (IEBC)
- 2021 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code (ISPSC)
- 2018 International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC)
- 2018 International Mechanical Code (IMC)
- 2018 International Plumbing Code (IPC)

The 2018 IFGC, IMC, and IPC will be updated to the 2021 versions once adopted by the State of Maryland. These changes will become effective six months after the state's effective date or publication date, whichever is later. Future editions of the referenced codes will also be incorporated and become effective six months after the state's effective date or publication date, whichever is later.

The new requirements will not apply to any building, structure, or appurtenances that are constructed, altered, moved, enlarged, replaced, repaired, located, removed, or demolished pursuant to a valid building permit issued after the effective date of this ordinance, provided that the application for the permit was filed before the effective date and that some commencement of work is evident within 12 months of the ordinance's effective date.

This update ensures compliance with State law and the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) as part of the adoption process for Maryland Building Performance Standards (MBPS). The Department of Land Use & Growth Management (LUGM) will ensure implementation and enforcement of the MBPS, including plan reviews, issuance of building permits, inspections, and the issuance of use and occupancy certificates.

– MORE –

ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

Jenna Guzman, Communications Director
SMCG TV 95 Station Manager
Media Inquiries: 301-475-4200, ext. 1342, or PIO@stmaryscountymd.gov

COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY

James R. Guy, President
Mike Alderson, Jr., Commissioner
Eric S. Colvin, Commissioner
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner

NEWS RELEASE *for Immediate Release*

Free public digital access is available to review the following:

- Maryland Building Codes: <https://www.dllr.state.md.us/labor/build/buildcodes.shtml>.
- 2021 International Building Code: <https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/IBC2021P2>
- 2021 International Residential Code: <https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/IRC2021P1>
- 2021 International Existing Building Code: <https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/IEBC2021P1>
- 2021 International Energy Conservation Code: <https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/IECC2021P1>
- 2021 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code: <https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/ISPSC2021P1>

To review the International Codes (i-Codes), visit: <https://codes.iccsafe.org/codes/maryland>.

Questions may be directed to LUGM at (301) 475-4200 ext. 1542 or via email to bpservice@stmaryscountymd.gov. Residents can learn more about the Department of Land Use & Growth Management at: <https://www.stmaryscountymd.gov/lugm>.

###