

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND**  
**2003 Legislative Session**

Bill No. CB-41-2003

Chapter No. 32

Proposed and Presented by The Chairman (by request – County Executive)

Introduced by Council Members Knotts, Bland and Exum

Co-Sponsors \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Introduction July 8, 2003

**EMERGENCY BILL**

1 AN EMERGENCY ACT concerning

2 Building Code

3 For the purpose of amending the Building Code to include a provision authorizing the Building  
4 Code Official to abate unsafe conditions.

5 BY repealing and reenacting with amendments:

6 SUBTITLE 4. BUILDING.

7 Section 4-120,

8 The Prince George's County Code

9 (1999 Edition, 2002 Supplement).

10 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County,  
11 Maryland, that Section 4-120 of the Prince George's County Code be and the same is hereby  
12 repealed and reenacted with the following amendments:

13 **SUBTITLE 4. BUILDING.**

14 **DIVISION 1. BUILDING CODE.**

15 **Subdivision 2. Amendments to the International Building Code.**

16 **Sec. 4-120. Administration; Section 116, Emergency Measures.**

17 (a) Section 116.1 is added to read as follows: "Imminent Danger." When, in the opinion  
18 of the Code Official, there is imminent danger of failure or collapse of a building or structure or  
19 any part thereof which endangers life or when any structure or part of a structure has fallen and  
20 life is endangered by the occupation of the building or structure, the Code Official is hereby  
21 authorized and empowered to order and require the occupants to vacate the same forthwith. The

Code Official shall cause to be posted at each entrance to such structure, a notice reading as follows: 'This structure is unsafe and its occupancy has been prohibited by the Code Official.' It shall be unlawful for any person to enter such structure except for the purpose of making the required repairs or of demolishing the same.

\* \* \* \* \*

(c) Section 116.1.2 is added to read as follows: "Abatement of Unsafe Conditions."

When, in the opinion of the Building Code Official, with the concurrence of the Director, there is an imminent danger to human life or the public welfare due to an unsafe condition, the Building Code Official shall cause the necessary work to be done to eliminate the condition including, but not limited to, the demolition of the structure or structures. The Building Official shall cause to be published, for three (3) consecutive days, in a County newspaper of record, notice setting forth the address of the building; a description of the real estate sufficient for its identification; a statement that the property is unsafe and constitutes an immediate and continuing hazard to the community; and a statement that the County intends to demolish same if the owner fails to do so. The provisions of Section 4-121(a) shall not apply. A person objecting to the proposed actions of the County may file an objection in an appropriate form in a court of competent jurisdiction. If the building is not demolished within thirty (30) days of mailing the notice to the owners of record, or within (30) days of the last day of publication of the notice in a County newspaper of record, whichever is later, the Building Code Official shall have the power to demolish the structure or structures.

- [(c)] (d) \* \* \* \* \*
- [(d)] (e) \* \* \* \* \*
- [(e)] (f) \* \* \* \* \*
- [(f)] (g) \* \* \* \* \*
- [(g)] (h) \* \* \* \* \*
- [(h)] (i) \* \* \* \* \*
- [(i)] (j) \* \* \* \* \*
- [(j)] (k) \* \* \* \* \*

SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that in accordance with the provisions of Section 317 of the Charter, the County Council hereby declares that a public emergency exists affecting the public health, safety, or welfare; said emergency being the need to amend the

1 County Building Code to authorize the Building Code Official to cause the demolition of  
2 structures deemed to be unsafe, posing an imminent danger or threat to the public safety, health,  
3 and human life.

4 SECTION 3. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Act shall take effect on the date it  
5 becomes law.

Adopted this 29th day of July, 2003, by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of  
the full County Council.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE  
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Peter A. Shapiro  
Chair

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Redis C. Floyd  
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED:

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jack B. Johnson  
County Executive

KEY:  
Underscoring indicates language added to existing law.  
[Brackets] indicate language deleted from existing law.  
Asterisks \*\*\* indicate intervening existing Code provisions that remain unchanged.