

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2021 Legislative Session

Reference No.:	CB-020-2021
Draft No.:	2
Committee:	COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Date:	04/01/2021
Action:	FAV (A)

REPORT:

Committee Vote: Favorable as amended, 10-0 (In favor: Council Members Hawkins, Anderson-Walker, Davis, Dernoga, Franklin, Harrison, Ivey, Streeter, Turner and Taveras.

The Committee of the Whole (COW) convened on April 1, 2021 to consider CB-20-2021 which was transmitted by the County Executive on February 25, 2021 for County Council consideration. In November 2020, the County Council enacted legislation to amend Subtitle 4, the County's Building Code, to conform to the 2018 editions of the International Building Code, the International Mechanical Code, the International Energy Conservation Code and the International Residential Code for One- and Two-Family Dwellings. On March 18, 2021, the County Council, sitting as the Committee of the Whole, favorably reported out CB-7-2021 to update the provisions of the Housing Code of Prince George's County to conform to the 2018 edition of the International Property Maintenance Code. Similarly, CB-20-2021 amends Subtitle 9 (Electricity) of the County Code to conform to the 2017 National Electrical Code.

During the April 1, 2021 COW meeting, Lori Parris, Senior Advisor to the Director of the Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE) summarized the purpose of the legislation. DPIE Associate Directors Bellur Ravishankar and Behdad Kashanian were also present to provide background information and respond to questions. Ms. Parris summarized the proposed changes to the electrical code as follows:

1. Added Section 9-105 -Prevent Physical Damage. This section was added to prevent physical damage to electrical equipment and appliances.
2. Added Section 9-106 - Article 250 – Grounding. This section provides clarity and details regarding the grounding of electrical equipment and appliances.
3. Added Section 108.01 - Switchboards and Panelboards. This section requires maintenance inspections of electrical equipment having a capacity of 800 amps or larger, every three years. The owner must submit reports to DPIE regarding the outcome of the inspections.
4. Removed Section 9-111- Duties and Power of Chief Electrical Inspector. DPIE does not have a Chief Electrical Inspector. The Chief Building Official or his/her designee will perform the required duties. This change is aligned with surrounding jurisdictions.
5. Removed Section 9-122 - Unused Permits and Inspections. This section was deleted

because this provision is covered under Sub-Title 4.

6. Section 9-124 – Notice of Violation, 125 – Appeals - These enforcement sections were deleted because these provisions are covered under Sub-Title 4.

DPIE submitted a Proposed Draft-2 with amendments as follows:

1. On page 3, lines 12-13:

Sec. 9-105. [Reserved]. Prevent Physical Damage

“For residential and commercial applications, in locations where electrical equipment is likely to be exposed to physical damage by vehicles, electrical equipment shall have vehicle impact protection per 2018 International Building Code (IBC) 1607.9 2015 IBC 1607.8.3. or as per 2018 International Residential Code (IRC) E3404.10.

2. On page 14, lines 1-5, strike the section as follows:

~~Sec. 9-126. [Special requirements for power companies.] Reserved.~~

~~— [No electric light or power company shall energize any customer's electric lines, outlets or
— devices within the County until a temporary or permanent meter cut-in certificate has
been
— issued by the Department. This Section does not apply to facilities of the Washington
— Suburban Sanitary Commission that are used to dispense their services to the public.]~~

The Office of Law reviewed CB-20-2021 and determined that it is in proper legislative form with no legal impediments to its enactment. The Office of Audits and Investigations submitted a March 31, 2021 Policy Analysis and Fiscal Note indicating that enactment of CB-20-2021 may require minimum additional expenditures due to the increased staff training, additional enforcement, and marketing for staff, builders and the public to implement, monitor and enforce the new building code.

On a motion by Council Member Turner, and second by Council Member Streeter, the Committee of the Whole voted favorable, 10-0, on CB-20-2021 as amended in Proposed Draft-2.