



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Office of Audits and Investigations


March 31, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: Robert J. Williams, Jr.
Council Administrator

William M. Hunt
Deputy Council Administrator

THRU: Josh Hamlin 
Senior Legislative Budget and Policy Analyst

FROM: Warren E. Burris, Sr. 
Senior Legislative Budget and Policy Analyst

RE: Policy Analysis and Fiscal Note
CB-020-2021 – Electrical Code of Prince George's County

CB-020-2021 (*Proposed by the Chair by request of the County Executive*)
Assigned to Committee of the Whole (COW)

AN ACT CONCERNING BUILDING CODE OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FOR THE PURPOSE of updating the provisions of the Building Code of Prince George's County (the "County") to conform to the 2017 edition of the National Electrical Code.

Fiscal Summary

Direct Impact:

Expenditures: Likely minimal.

Revenues: None.

Indirect Impact:

None likely.

14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772
VOICE (301) 952-3431; FAX (301) 780-2097; TDD (301) 925-5167

Legislative Summary:

CB-020-2021, proposed by the Chair at the request of the County Executive was presented on March 9, 2021 and referred to the Committee of the Whole (COW). The purpose of this Bill is to amend Subtitle 9 of the County Code to adopt the 2017 Edition of the National Electrical Code, as published by the International Code Council¹ and the National Fire Protection Association

Background/Current Law:

The County's Electrical Code is located in Subtitle 9, Division 1 of the County Code. In Subdivision 1 of Division 1, under Section 9-101, the 2014 Edition of the National Electrical Code (NEC)² is adopted by reference. Amendments to the NEC are set forth in Subdivision 2, Administration is provided for in Subdivision 3, and Enforcement procedures are in Subdivision 4. If Enacted, CB-020-2021 would make amendments in all four Subdivisions of Division 1. Specifically, CB-020-2021 would:

- Adopt the 2017 version of the National Electrical Code as published by the National Fire Protection Association.
- Amend County Code Section 9-102 to remove and replace authority this provision from the Chief Electrical Inspector and Electric Code Official to the Director of Permitting, Enforcement and Inspections and/or their designee.
- Eliminate the requirement that one (1) Copy of the National Electrical Code adopted by this Subdivision shall be marked as Master and maintained with the Clerk of the Council.
- Add Section 105, "Prevent Physical Damage," which allows where electrical equipment is likely to be exposed to physical damage by vehicles , electrical equipment shall have impact protection.
- Add Section 9-106 (1), which adds to Section 250 (A)(1), Grounding for Metal Underground Water Pipes.
- Add Section 9-106 (2), which adds to Section 250 (A)(2), Grounding for Metal In-ground Support Structures.)
- Delete Section 9,108.01 (A)(1) Article 408.36, Overcurrent Protection and Section 9.108.01 (A0(2), Section 408 Part II - Section 408.23 entitled, Switchboards of the One Thousand Amperes or Larger.
- Add Section 9-108 (a)(1), which requires commercially owned occupancies including dwelling units having electrical equipment with a capacity of 800 amperes or larger shall

¹ The National Code Council is the leading global source of model codes and standards and building safety solutions that include product evaluation, accreditation, technology, training, and certification. The Code Council's codes, standards, and solutions are used to ensure safe, affordable, and sustainable communities and buildings worldwide

² Throughout the United States and around the world, NFPA 70®: National Electrical Code® (NEC) sets the foundation for electrical safety in residential, commercial, and industrial occupancies. The 2017 edition of this trusted Code presents the latest comprehensive regulations for electrical wiring, overcurrent protection, grounding, and installation of equipment. NFPA 70: NEC has been published since 1897, and a rigorous process of review keeps it up-to-date with new technologies.

undergo maintenance, cleaning and inspections every three (3) years by master electrician licensed in Prince George's County.

- Add Section 9-108 (a)(2) shall provide requirements for new and renovated installations receive letter from utility company stating the SC AIC rating required for service equipment to the inspector and requires certification of electrical connection tightening per Manufacturer recommendations.
- Amend Section 9-111 by removing duties of Chief Electrical Inspector.
- Amend Sections 9-112 thru Section 9-116 removing any references of Chief Electrical Inspector to reference the DPIE Director and/or their designee.
- Add Section 9-117 (d) to provide provisions and guidance for Personal installation by and voiding of permits unless work authorized is commenced within 6 months as opposed to 12 months, from date of insurance or there are no inspections made within 6 months as opposed to 12 months.
- Delete Sections 9-122 through 9-126.

Discussion/Policy Analysis:

- *Potential Benefits of Enacting CB-020-2021*

Enacting CB-020-201 would update the County electrical code to conform to the new standards, with the expectation that public safety will benefit from increased safety standards. This represents a health and safety measure for Prince George's County residents and modernize safety measures for existing buildings.

- *Potential Costs of Enacting CB-020-2021*

Enactment of CB-020-2021 may require additional marketing, educating, and enforcement of DPIE staff, builders and the public. There may be a need for additional enforcement to ensure compliance with the new electrical code.

Fiscal Impact:

Direct Impact

Enactment of CB-020-2021 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.

Indirect Impact

None likely.

Appropriated in the Current Fiscal Year Budget

No.

Effective Date of Proposed Legislation:

The proposed legislation shall take effect forty-five (45) calendar days after it becomes law.

Resource Personnel:

Council Administration

If you require additional information, or have questions about this fiscal impact statement, please call me.