

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 1052

(Delegates Holmes and Stein)

Environment and Transportation

Finance

**Public Safety - Natural Gas and Liquefied Propane Piping Systems -
Construction Requirements (Flynn and Laird Act)**

This bill prohibits the use of non-arc-resistant jacketed corrugated stainless steel tubing (CSST) in (1) the new construction of a customer-owned natural gas or liquefied propane piping system in a building; (2) a natural gas or liquefied propane piping system in a renovated property if the renovation affects more than 50% of the total square footage of the property; or (3) a natural gas or liquefied propane piping system that requires the addition of a new gas line to the gas piping system. The bill applies to any building that uses fuel gas piping systems not subject to Title 49, Part 192 of the Code of Federal Regulations. The bill applies prospectively only and may not be applied or interpreted to have any effect on or application to any new construction for which a building permit is issued before the bill's effective date.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: No effect on total capital construction spending, which is established annually through the capital budget process. However, the cost of some State renovation projects may increase to comply with the bill's requirements. To the extent that the cost of individual projects increases, less funding is available for other projects. No effect on revenues.

Local Effect: No effect on total capital construction spending for local governments. However, the cost of some local government renovation projects may increase to comply with the bill's requirements. To the extent that the cost of individual projects increases, less funding is available for other projects. No effect on revenues.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law:

Regulation of Gas Lines – Generally

The Board of Plumbers within the Maryland Department of Labor incorporates by reference the 2018 International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC) in regulation. Title 49, Part 192 of the Code of Federal Regulations specifies the minimum federal safety standards for gas pipeline facilities and the transportation of natural and other gas by pipeline. Both the IFGC and federal regulations include standards for the installation and maintenance of gas piping systems.

Maryland Building Rehabilitation Code

The State incorporates by reference the 2018 International Existing Building Code as the Maryland Building Rehabilitation Code (MBRC). MBRC encourages private investment in existing buildings and communities through a construction code that streamlines and harmonizes the code requirements for rehabilitation work.

At a minimum, MBRC must (1) maintain a level of safety consistent with existing codes; (2) provide for multiple categories of work with multiple compliance standards; (3) be enforceable by local officials using existing enforcement procedures; (4) apply to the repair, renovation, modification, and reconstruction of, a change of occupancy in, and an addition to, an existing building; (5) provide an expedited review process for proposed amendments to MBRC submitted by a local government or an organization that represents local governments; and (6) provide an opportunity for a person proposing a complex project that involves multiple codes to meet, before submitting a construction permit application, with the local officials, or their designees, responsible for permit approval and enforcement of construction-related laws that apply to the project.

State/Local Expenditures: The bill's prohibition against the use of CSST for any renovation that affects at least 50% of a building's total square footage may increase the cost of some renovation projects. Under the bill, any renovation that affects at least 50% of the total square footage must replace all piping in the building, which may involve more demolition and installation of new piping than would otherwise be done. Projects of that scope may already plan to replace all piping, so not all projects are affected. However, to the extent that they are affected, the cost of such renovations may increase substantially.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Harford County; School Construction Program; Department of General Services; Department of Housing and Community Development; Maryland Department of Labor; Maryland Department of Transportation; Public Service Commission; Department of State Police; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 25, 2022
fnu2/mcr Third Reader - March 30, 2022
 Revised - Amendment(s) - March 30, 2022

Analysis by: Thomas S. Elder

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510