

Chapter 206

(House Bill 926)

AN ACT concerning

**Maryland Building Performance Standards – Local Requests for Guidance –
Religious Considerations**

FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Department of Labor, on request of a local jurisdiction and in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General, to provide guidance for the implementation and enforcement of the Maryland Building Performance Standards in relation to any religious observance, practice, or belief; and generally relating to the Maryland Building Performance Standards.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Public Safety
Section 12–507
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Public Safety

12–507.

(a) The Department may:

(1) develop a voluntary forum that may be used, on request of a local jurisdiction, to resolve conflicts that involve the Standards; and

(2) adopt regulations to carry out this subtitle.

(b) The Department:

(1) shall notify each local jurisdiction of each change to the International Building Code and the impact the change will have on the local amendments in that local jurisdiction;

(2) in conjunction with the Maryland Building Officials Association and other interested organizations, shall provide training for local building officials on the Standards and certify the participation of local building officials in the training; [and]

(3) on request, shall provide a local jurisdiction with technical assistance to implement and enforce the Standards; AND

(4) ON REQUEST BY A LOCAL JURISDICTION AND IN CONSULTATION WITH THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, SHALL PROVIDE GUIDANCE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE STANDARDS IN RELATION TO ANY RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE, PRACTICE, OR BELIEF.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2024.

Approved by the Governor, April 25, 2024.