



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Raised Bill No. 6984

LCO No. 4686

Referred to Committee on Public Safety

Introduced by:

(PS)

AN ACT CONCERNING CHANGES TO THE STATE FIRE SAFETY CODE AND THE STATE BUILDING CODE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) The Fire Safety Code shall specify reasonable
2 minimum requirements for areas of refuge in existing educational
3 occupancies.

4 Sec. 2. Section 7-605 of the general statutes is repealed and the
5 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

6 (a) After enacting a resolution establishing a neighborhood
7 revitalization zone, a municipality may establish a process to request
8 that a state or local official waive the application of any provision of
9 state and local environmental, health and safety codes and regulations
10 that unreasonably jeopardize implementation of a strategic plan
11 adopted under section 7-602, except a provision necessary to comply
12 with federal law. Any waiver shall not create a substantial threat to the
13 environment, public health, safety or welfare of the residents and
14 occupants of the neighborhood. Any request for a waiver shall identify
15 the state or local code or regulation for which the waiver is sought and

16 shall include recommendations for alternate requirements to replace
17 the standard being waived in the existing code or regulation.

18 (b) A neighborhood revitalization zone committee may determine,
19 by a majority vote of the members present at a meeting scheduled for
20 such purpose and conducted within the boundaries of the zone, if
21 practical, that a provision of a state or local environmental, health or
22 safety code or regulation jeopardizes implementation of the strategic
23 plan and may request a waiver of such provision, provided such
24 request complies with subsection (a) of this section. The committee
25 shall forward such waiver request to the chief executive official of the
26 municipality. Within five business days of receipt of the request, the
27 chief executive official shall forward a copy thereof to the local official
28 responsible for code enforcement, if any, and to the Secretary of the
29 Office of Policy and Management. If the request is for waiver of a state
30 code or regulation, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
31 Management shall, within five business days of receipt, notify the state
32 official responsible for enforcement of the code or regulation that a
33 provision of such code or regulation is requested to be waived. The
34 state official or local official shall conduct a public hearing on the
35 waiver within thirty calendar days of receipt of the request at a place
36 determined by the chief executive official. Within fifteen business days
37 of the conclusion of the hearing, the state official or local official shall
38 notify, in writing, the chief executive official of [his] the decision. The
39 decision of the state official or local official shall be final.

40 (c) The Commissioner of Public Safety shall identify modifications
41 to the State Building Code that are acceptable in rehabilitating
42 deteriorated properties without creating a substantial threat to the
43 environment, public health, safety or welfare.

44 [(c)] (d) Any abandoned or vacant property located in a
45 neighborhood revitalization zone established pursuant to sections
46 7-600 to 7-602, inclusive, shall be deemed to be in continuous use for
47 purposes of enforcement of state or local environmental, health and

48 safety codes or regulations.

Statement of Purpose:

To make certain changes to the State Fire Safety Code and the State Building Code.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]