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HOUSE BILL NO. 518

Offered January 18, 2000

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 36-99.01, relating to the Uniform Statewide Building Code.

Patrons—Clement, Hall and Ingram; Senator: Hawkins

Referred to Committee on General Laws

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 36-99.01 as follows:

§ 36-99.01. Provisions related to rehabilitation of existing buildings.

A. The General Assembly hereby declares that (i) there is an urgent need to improve the housing conditions of low and moderate income individuals and families, many of whom live in substandard housing, particularly in the older cities of the Commonwealth; (ii) there are large numbers of older residential buildings in the Commonwealth, both occupied and vacant, which are in urgent need of rehabilitation and which must be rehabilitated if the State's citizens are to be housed in decent, sound, and sanitary conditions; and (iii) the application of those building code requirements currently in force to housing rehabilitation has sometimes led to the imposition of costly and time-consuming requirements which result in a significant reduction in the amount of rehabilitation activity taking place.

B. The Board is hereby directed and empowered to develop, as part of the Building Code, building regulations specifically designed to foster cost-effective housing rehabilitation, while ensuring that necessary health and safety requirements are met. The housing rehabilitation regulations shall be designed for use throughout the Commonwealth but shall have particular application to the older communities of the Commonwealth, and the housing types characteristic of those communities. In developing the code, the Board shall investigate relevant model codes and the experiences of other code enforcement jurisdictions, consult with individuals and organizations experienced in the rehabilitation of low and moderate income housing in the Commonwealth, and conduct other research as may be relevant to the purposes of this section. The housing rehabilitation regulations shall become effective on July 1, 2001.

INTRODUCED

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