

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 1994 SESSION

CHAPTER 214

An Act to amend and reenact § 36-105 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Uniform Statewide Building Code; inspection of certain residential buildings.

[H 1238]

Approved April 2, 1994

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 36-105 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 36-105. Enforcement of Code; appeals from decisions of local department; inspection of buildings.

Enforcement of the Building Code shall be the responsibility of the local building department. There shall be established within each local building department a local board of Building Code appeals whose composition, duties and responsibilities shall be prescribed in the Building Code. Appeals from the local building department concerning application of the Building Code or refusal to grant a modification to the provisions of the Code covering the manner of construction or materials to be used in the erection, alteration or repair of a building or structure shall first lie to the local board of Building Code appeals. No appeal to the State Building Code Technical Review Board shall lie prior to a final determination by the local board of Building Code appeals. Whenever a county or a municipality does not have such a building department or board of Building Code appeals, the local governing body shall enter into an agreement with the local governing body of another county or municipality or with some other agency, or a state agency approved by the Department for such enforcement and appeals resulting therefrom. For the purposes of this section, towns with a population of less than 3,500 may elect to administer and enforce the Building Code; however, where the town does not elect to administer and enforce the Building Code, the county in which the town is situated shall administer and enforce the Building Code for the town. In the event such town is situated in two or more counties, those counties shall administer and enforce the Building Code for that portion of the town which is situated within their respective boundaries. Fees may be levied by the local governing body in order to defray the cost of such enforcement and appeals.

Any building may be inspected at any time before completion, and shall not be deemed in compliance until approved by the inspecting authority. Where the construction cost is less than \$1,000, however, the building inspection may, in the discretion of the inspecting authority, be waived. A local governing body may provide that buildings and structures, permanent or temporary, which are used to store hazardous materials, or occupied or to be used by twenty or more persons who are employed, lodged, housed, assembled, served, entertained or instructed therein, or the common areas of residential structures containing four or more units, including buildings owned by the Commonwealth or by any of its political subdivisions and the equipment therein, be inspected periodically after completion to insure that the Building Code regulations are properly maintained. The building official shall coordinate all reports with inspections for compliance of the Building Code, from fire and health officials delegated such authority, prior to issuance of an occupancy permit.

The local governing body may inspect and enforce the building regulations promulgated by the Board for existing buildings, whether occupied or not. Such enforcement shall be carried out by an agency or department designated by the governing body.

The local governing body may, upon an affirmative finding of the need to protect the public health, safety and welfare, require the issuance of certificates of compliance with current building regulations for existing residential buildings located in conservation and rehabilitation districts designated by the local governing body after inspections of such buildings upon termination of the rental tenancies or when such rental property is sold. Such certificate of compliance shall be issued in accordance with the administrative provisions of the Uniform Statewide Building Code.