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HOUSE BILL NO. 1858

Offered January 19, 1995

A BILL to amend and reenact § 36-105 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Uniform Statewide Building Code; inspection of buildings.

Patrons—Spruill, Christian, Cranwell, Crittenden, Cunningham, Jones, D.C., Jones, J.C., Melvin, Moore, Nelms, Purkey and Robinson; Senators: Lucas and Maxwell

Referred to Committee on General Laws

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 Building 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 or structure 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 inspection may, in the discretion of the inspecting authority, be waived. The building official shall coordinate all reports of inspections for compliance with the Building Code, with inspections of fire and health officials delegated such authority, prior to issuance of an occupancy permit.

The local governing body may also inspect and enforce the Building Code for existing buildings and structures, whether occupied or not, including such regulations for elevators. Such inspection and enforcement shall be carried out by an agency or department designated by the local 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.

INTRODUCED

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