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HOUSE BILL NO. 935

Offered January 26, 1998

A BILL to amend and reenact § 36-97 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Uniform Statewide Building Code; definitions.

Patron—Guest

Referred to Committee on General Laws

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 36-97 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 36-97. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, unless the context or subject matter requires otherwise, the following words or terms shall have the meaning herein ascribed to them, respectively:

"Board" means the Board of Housing and Community Development.

"Review Board" means the State Building Code Technical Review Board.

"Building Code" means the Uniform Statewide Building Code and building regulations adopted and promulgated pursuant thereto.

"Code provisions" means the provisions of the Uniform Statewide Building Code as adopted and promulgated by the Board, and the amendments thereof as adopted and promulgated by such Board from time to time.

"Building regulations" means any law, rule, resolution, regulation, ordinance or code, general or special, or compilation thereof, heretofore or hereafter enacted or adopted by the Commonwealth or any county or municipality, including departments, boards, bureaus, commissions, or other agencies thereof, relating to construction, reconstruction, alteration, conversion, repair, maintenance, or use of structures and buildings and installation of equipment therein. The term does not include zoning ordinances or other land use controls that do not affect the manner of construction or materials to be used in the erection, alteration or repair of a building or structure.

"Municipality" means any city or town in this Commonwealth.

"Local governing body" means the governing body of any city, county or town in this Commonwealth.

"Local building department" means the agency or agencies of any local governing body charged with the administration, supervision, or enforcement of the Building Code and regulations, approval of plans, inspection of buildings, or issuance of permits, licenses, certificates or similar documents.

"State agency" means any state department, board, bureau, commission, or agency of this Commonwealth.

"Building" means a combination of any materials, whether portable or fixed, having a roof to form a structure for the use or occupancy by persons, or property; ~~however, farm buildings not used for residential purposes and frequented generally by the owner, members of his family, and farm employees shall be exempt from the provisions of the Uniform Statewide Building Code, but such buildings lying within a flood plain or in a mudslide-prone area shall be subject to flood proofing regulations or mudslide regulations, as applicable.~~ The word "building" shall be construed as though followed by the words "or part or parts thereof" unless the context clearly requires a different meaning.

"Equipment" means plumbing, heating, electrical, ventilating, air-conditioning and refrigeration equipment, elevators, dumbwaiters, escalators, and other mechanical additions or installations.

"Farm building or structure" means a building or structure located on a farm utilized for either the (i) storage, display, handling, production, sale of farm products produced on the farm, sampling of the products produced on the farm which products are normally intended for sale to domestic or foreign markets and operations of the farm's business of agricultural, horticultural, or floricultural products or (ii) sheltering, raising, or processing of farm animals or farm animal products which animals or products are normally intended for sale to domestic or foreign markets. "Farm building or structure" shall include buildings or structures used for the maintenance, storage or use of farm equipment, and which are normally regulated by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Farm buildings or structures shall be exempt from the provisions of the Building Code.

"Construction" means the construction, reconstruction, alteration, repair or conversion of buildings and structures.

"Owner" means the owner or owners of the freehold of the premises or lesser estate therein, a mortgagee or vendee in possession, assignee of rents, receiver, executor, trustee, or lessee in control of a building or structure.

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60 "Director" means the Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development.

61 "Structure" means an assembly of materials forming a construction for occupancy or use including
62 stadiums, gospel and circus tents, reviewing stands, platforms, stagings, observation towers, radio towers,
63 water tanks, storage tanks (underground and aboveground), trestles, piers, wharves, swimming pools,
64 amusement devices, storage bins, and other structures of this general nature but excluding water wells.
65 ~~Farm structures not used for residential purposes shall be exempt from the provisions of the Uniform~~
66 ~~Statewide Building Code, but such structures lying within a flood plain or in a mudslide-prone area shall~~
67 ~~be subject to flood proofing regulations or mudslide regulations, as applicable.~~ The word "structure"
68 shall be construed as though followed by the words "or part or parts thereof" unless the context clearly
69 requires a different meaning.

70 "Department" means the Department of Housing and Community Development.