

RONALD I. BUXTON  
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MAJORITY CAUCUS ADMINISTRATOR



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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

June 17, 2009

TO: All Members of the House of Representatives  
FROM: REPRESENTATIVE RON BUXTON  
SUBJECT: Introduction of Legislation

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Ron Buxton", written over the "FROM" line of the letterhead.

I will be introducing 2 pieces of legislation to amend the PA Construction Code Act.

The first piece of legislation will be to remove the impending residential sprinkler mandate in Pennsylvania and making it a municipal option under certain conditions. It is expected that the Department of Labor and Industry will adopt a regulation implementing the 2009 International Residential Code (IRC) into Pennsylvania's Uniform Construction Code (UCC) by December 31 of this year. The 2009 IRC contains a residential sprinkler mandate. The legislation amends Sections 301, 503 (c) and 901 of the Act as follows:

- An amendment to section 503 (c) to provide that all municipal ordinances adopted on or after July 1, 1999 , that exceed the code by requiring fire sprinklers in residential buildings subject to the IRC shall provide for design and installation in accordance with the 2009 IRC, or its triennial revisions.
- An amendment to 503 (j) to provide conditions for municipalities which desire to mandate residential sprinkler ordinances into their communities to do so.
- Amendments to Section 901 would remove the impending mandate of fire sprinkler systems from the Uniform Construction Code. Municipalities are given the option to enact an ordinance requiring them, under Section 503 (j).
- Also in Section 901, builders will be required to offer all new home buyers the option to install a sprinkler system at the buyer's expense.

The second piece of legislation will amend the Uniform Construction Code Act to maintain the current 2006 International Code Council (ICC) standards in Pennsylvania until the 2012 ICC code changes are published. This legislation is in response to concerns from municipalities and the real estate industry regarding proposed 2009 code changes and the expense of each municipality and each contractor in Pennsylvania needing to purchase a new 14 volume set of code books every three years. It is also an expense to re-train municipal code inspectors every three years.

If you would like to co-sponsor either or both of the bills, please contact Cindy at 783-9342.



**Pennsylvania Builders Association**  
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## **Memorandum**

**To:** All Members of the House of Representatives  
**From:** Lou Biacchi, Director of Government Affairs  
**Subject:** Please co-sponsor Rep. Buxton's legislation  
**Date:** June 17, 2009

I'm writing today to ask you to co-sponsor Rep. Buxton's legislation amending the PA Construction Code Act. Rep. Buxton will be introducing two bills. The first would remove the impending residential sprinkler mandate in Pennsylvania and making it a municipal option under certain conditions. PBA expects the Department of Labor and Industry to adopt a regulation implementing the 2009 International Residential Code (IRC) into Pennsylvania's Uniform Construction Code (UCC). The 2009 IRC contains a residential sprinkler mandate.

The legislation amends Sections 301, 503 (c) and 901 of the Act as follows:

- An amendment to section 503 (c) to provide that all municipal ordinances adopted on or after July 1, 1999 , that exceed the code by requiring fire sprinklers in residential buildings subject to the IRC shall provide for design and installation in accordance with the 2009 IRC, or its triennial revisions.
- An amendment to 503 (j) to provide conditions for municipalities which desire to mandate residential sprinkler ordinances into their communities to do so.
- Amendments to Section 901 would remove the impending mandate of fire sprinkler systems from the Uniform Construction Code. Municipalities are given the option to enact an ordinance requiring them, under Section 503 (j).
- Also in Section 901, builders will be required to offer all new home buyers the option to install a sprinkler system at the buyer's expense.

The second bill would amend the Uniform Construction Code Act to maintain the current 2006 International Code Council (ICC) standards in Pennsylvania until the 2012 ICC code changes are published.

# **MODULAR**

BUILDING SYSTEMS ASSOCIATION

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## **BUILDING FOR TOMORROW**

June 16, 2009

The Honorable Michael P. McGeehan  
Pennsylvania House of Representatives  
PO Box 202173  
221 Irvis Office Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2173

Dear Representative McGeehan:

I am writing on behalf of the Modular Building Systems Association (MBSA) to ask for your support in co-sponsoring two bills to be introduced by Representative Buxton that would amend the Pennsylvania Construction Code Act. The first bill would remove the impending residential sprinkler mandate in Pennsylvania and make it a municipal option under certain conditions. The second bill would amend the Uniform Construction Code Act to maintain the current 2006 International Code Council (ICC) standards in Pennsylvania until the 2012 ICC code changes are published.

The first bill will provide individual municipalities the ability to mandate residential sprinkler ordinances; require all municipal ordinances adopted on or after July 1, 1999, that exceed the code by requiring fire sprinklers in residential buildings subject to the IRC, to provide for design and installation in accordance with the 2009 IRC (or its triennial revisions); remove the impending mandate of fire sprinkler systems from the Uniform Construction Code and; require builders to offer sprinkler systems as an option to all new home buyers

The second bill is a direct result of concerns shared by municipalities and the real estate industry. The purpose of this bill is to mitigate the cost that each municipality and contractor will incur in purchasing the new fourteen (14) volume code book set and re-training municipal code inspectors. During this challenging economic climate unnecessary costs such as these are looked upon unfavorably by

On behalf of Pennsylvania's modular housing industry, please consider co-sponsoring both of Representative Buxton's bills. I appreciate your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Chad C. Harvey  
Executive Director