

**Minutes of the
BOARD OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Codes and Standards Committee
April 16, 2025
10:00 AM
All-Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams**

Members Present

Louie Berbert
Sylvia Bryant
Cindy Davis
Bill Garrett
Jenna Goodman
Keith Johnson
Roger Jones, Chair
Tammy Neale
Hank Osleger
J.M. Snell, Vice Chair
Scott Stosser
Mark Trostle

Members Absent

Lynne Goldberg
Abigail Johnson

DHCD staff present for all or part of the meeting:

Justin Bell, Assistant Attorney General
Jeff Brown, Deputy Director of Building and Fire Regulations
Bryan Horn, Director
Trisha Lindsey, Policy and Legislative Services Director
Andrew Malloy, Sr. Policy Analyst
Sulaiman Safi, Board Coordinator
Chase Sawyer, Policy Manager
Todd Weinstein, Chief Deputy Director

Call to Order	Mr. Jones, Chair of the Codes and Standards Committee, called the meeting of the Committee to order at 10:02 a.m.
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Roll Call	The roll was called by Mr. Sawyer. Mr. Sawyer reported that a quorum was present.
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Public Comment	Mr. Jones opened the floor for public comment.
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Mr. Andrew Clark, representing the Home Builders Association of Virginia, spoke in support of the proposed regulatory language addressing the issues with the NFPA 13R sprinkler requirements for Groups R-2 and R-3 buildings. He thanked DHCD and fire

services for convening and participating in the workgroup that developed the consensus language addressing this issue.

After seeing no additional speakers, Mr. Jones closed public comment.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Neale and seconded by Mr. Trostle to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2025 meeting of the Codes and Standards Committee. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote (YEAS: Berbert, Bryant, Davis, Garrett, Goodman, K. Johnson, Jones, Neale, Osleger, Snell, Stosser, Trostle; NAYS: None).

Emergency Regulatory
Action

Mr. Jeff Brown presented the proposed regulatory language addressing the State Building Code Technical Review Board's (TRB) request that the Board consider a solution to address an identified issue with the NFPA 13R sprinkler requirements. Mr. Brown reminded the Board that at the March 10, 2025 meeting, the Board directed staff to coordinate with relevant stakeholders and prepare the appropriate regulatory documents to address the TRB's request. Mr. Brown shared that the proposed regulatory language was created by a workgroup comprised of builders, fire service professionals, and code officials. Mr. Brown continued, sharing that the proposed changes received unanimous support from stakeholders and would resolve the identified issues surrounding the NFPA 13R sprinkler requirements in the 2021 Virginia Construction Code, specifically as they relate to overburdensome requirements on Groups R-2 and R-3 occupancy buildings.

A motion was made by Mr. Osleger and seconded by Mr. Johnson to recommend the Board of Housing and Community Development adopt the amended regulation as presented and authorize staff to proceed with the emergency regulatory process for the proposed changes to 13VAC5-63-240, making any non-substantial changes that may be identified during the administrative review process in order to complete the action as expeditiously as possible. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote (YEAS: Berbert, Bryant, Davis, Garrett, Goodman, K. Johnson, Jones, Neale, Osleger, Snell, Stosser, Trostle; NAYS: None).

Other Business

There was no other business discussed.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Stosser to adjourn the meeting of the Committee. The motion passed on a

unanimous voice vote (YEAS: Berbert, Bryant, Davis, Garrett, Goodman, K. Johnson, Jones, Neale, Osleger, Snell, Stosser, Trostle; NAYS: None). The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m..