

Introduced \_\_\_\_\_  
Public Hearing \_\_\_\_\_  
Council Action \_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Action \_\_\_\_\_  
Effective Date \_\_\_\_\_

## County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2026 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 2

### Bill No. 16 -2026

Introduced by: The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive  
Co-Sponsored by: Opel Jones, Deb Jung, Christiana Rigby, and Liz Walsh

Short Title: Emergency Act - Amending – Howard County Building Code – I-3 Use group

Title: AN EMERGENCY ACT amending the Howard County Building Code to provide that only a government agency is eligible to make application, obtain or hold a permit for the I-3 Use group; to provide that the building official may suspend or revoke a permit other than one issued to a government agency that has not passed final inspection; generally relating to the regulation of building and construction in Howard County; and declaring this to be an emergency act.

Introduced and read first time \_\_\_\_\_, 2026. Ordered posted and hearing scheduled.

By order \_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Having been posted and notice of time & place of hearing & title of Bill having been published according to Charter, the Bill was read for a second time at a public hearing on \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

By order \_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

This Bill was read the third time on \_\_\_\_\_, 2026 and Passed \_\_\_\_\_, Passed with amendments \_\_\_\_\_, Failed \_\_\_\_\_.

By order \_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026 at \_\_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m.

By order \_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Approved/Vetoed by the County Executive \_\_\_\_\_, 2026

\_\_\_\_\_  
Calvin Ball, County Executive

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; ~~Strike-out~~ indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.

**Section 1. Be It Enacted by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that the Howard County Code is amended as follows:**

**By adding:**

**Section 3.101. Howard County Building Code; adoption of international codes. Subsection (b), paragraph (23)**

**By renumbering:**

**Section 3.101. Howard County Building Code; adoption of international codes. Subsection (b), paragraph (22) to be paragraph (23A)**

### **Title 3. Buildings.**

#### **Subtitle 1. Building code.**

#### **Section 3.101. Amendments to the International Building Code, 2024 Edition.**

**(b) Local Amendments.** The following amendments modify certain provisions of the adopted code.

**(22) Subsection 104.8.1 Legal defense.**

In the first sentence of this subsection, delete "legal representation of the jurisdiction until the final termination of the proceedings" and substitute "Howard County in accordance with Maryland Law".

**(23) SECTION 105.1 REQUIRED.**

**ADD AN EXCEPTION AS FOLLOWS:**

**EXCEPTION: NO OWNER OR OWNER'S AUTHORIZED AGENT, OTHER THAN A GOVERNMENT AGENCY, IS ELIGIBLE TO MAKE APPLICATION, OBTAIN, OR HOLD A PERMIT FOR I-3 USE GROUP. THE BUILDING OFFICIAL IS AUTHORIZED TO SUSPEND OR REVOKE A PERMIT FOR ANY OWNER OR OWNER'S AUTHORIZED AGENT, OTHER THAN A GOVERNMENT AGENCY, WHICH HAS BEEN ISSUED A PERMIT BUT WHICH HAS NOT PASSED FINAL INSPECTION AS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS LEGISLATION.**

**(23A) Subsection 105.1.1 Annual Permit.**

**Delete this subsection and substitute the following:**

1       **105.1.1. Master permit.** Instead of an individual permit for each alteration to an  
2       already approved building, electrical, fire, gas, mechanical, or plumbing  
3       installation, the Building Official may issue a master permit upon application by  
4       any person, firm, or corporation regularly employing one or more qualified  
5       professional or tradesperson in the building, structure, or on the premises owned  
6       or operated by the Applicant.

7  
8       **Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted by the County Council of Howard County,**  
9       *Maryland that subsections 3.101(b)(1) through (21) and (24) through (80), as adopted by*  
10      *Council Bill No. 24-2025, shall remain unchanged and in effect.*

11  
12      **Section 3. And Be It Further Enacted by the County Council of Howard County,**  
13      *Maryland that an emergency exists because Institutional Group I-3 are facilities, that are*  
14      *inhabited by more than five persons which require the occupants be under restraint or*  
15      *security and such uses consist of correctional centers, detention centers, jails, prerelease*  
16      *centers, prisons and reformatories and receiving a use and occupancy permit for such*  
17      *uses should remain with and under the oversight of governmental entities and not private*  
18      *entities.*

19  
20      **Section 4. And Be It Further Enacted by the County Council of Howard County,**  
21      *Maryland that allowing a private entity to own or operate a detention facility, which*  
22      *typically requires great responsibility and oversight of the government, in Howard*  
23      *County will negatively impact the health, safety, and welfare of our communities.*

24  
25      **Section 5. And Be it Further Enacted by the County Council of Howard County,**  
26      *Maryland that this Act is adopted as an emergency measure to address an immediate*  
27      *emergency affecting public health, safety, or welfare and having been passed by two-*  
28      *thirds of its members, this Act shall be effective immediately upon its enactment.*