



Virginia Association of Counties

To: County Administrators and Liaisons

Re: Housing Commission Building Code Violations Survey

A work group of the **Virginia Housing Commission** charged with studying accessibility and building code issues has requested county input relating to House Bill 1451, which was carried over during the 2006 General Assembly Session. The bill would allow courts in localities that have adopted the Virginia Maintenance Code to impose a misdemeanor jail sentence of up to 12 months for violations of occupancy limitations on dwelling and efficiency unit provisions of the Uniform Statewide Building Code. Current penalties are generally limited to fines; with jail time of up to ten days as an option on a third or subsequent violation for the same offense in a ten-year period.

Please complete or have your head building official or other appropriate county official complete and submit this survey by August 31. The work group's next meeting is scheduled for September 13.

This is an electronic survey that can be completed within an **open** email. You do not need to reply to this email. Clicking the "submit" button at the bottom will automatically send your county's survey responses to our office. However, you must **open** the message instead of trying to submit it through the Outlook preview pane. Another option is to fill out the survey online.

Thanks for your assistance!

1) County Name:

2) How often does the court in your jurisdiction impose jail time for building code violations?

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Often

3) Has your county adopted the Virginia Maintenance Code?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

4) How does Your county currently enforce violations of dwelling occupancy limits?

- ☐ As a violation of the zoning ordinance
☐ As a violation of the building code
☐ Other (please specify)

5) Are violations of occupancy limits a growing problem in your county?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Unsure

6) Approximately how many occupancy limit violations does your county investigate per year?

7) Are current enforcement mechanisms adequate to address this issue?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

If not, please explain why:

Please contact VACo staff member Jeff Gore for questions about this survey.

jgore@vaco.org

(804) 343-2506

Submit

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