

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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VIRGINIA HOUSING COMMISSION

HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS

WORK GROUP

June 5, 2007, 9:00 AM

House Room 1, Capitol Building

Meeting Summary

Members present: Senator Watkins (Chair), Delegate Cosgrove, Delegate Hull, Delegate D. Marshall, Gary Garczynski, T. K. Somanath, Delegate McClellan, Scott Sterling, Michael Congleton, James Dawson, John Hastings, Neal Rogers, Art Lipscomb, Ted McCormack, Ed Rhodes, Emory Rodgers, Mike Toalson and Rick Witt.

I. Welcome and Call to Order, Senator Watkins (Chair)

- Meeting called to order at 9:15 AM.

II. Sprinklers

A. Mary Jo Fields, Virginia Municipal League (VML)

- The sprinkler survey was distributed this past spring and 38 localities responded.
- Of the 38 responses, only 15 localities have buildings over 75 feet.
- Of those 15; seven are sprinkled, two of the jurisdictions are not, and in five jurisdictions half are sprinkles and half are not.
- It was discussed that all state buildings 75 feet and higher are already sprinkled.
- A reason that buildings are not sprinkled is the cost and access to water, which potentially comes from wells in more rural areas.
- The Commission wants VML to survey the localities again to get a more thorough response and determine if sprinkling would hinder economic development.

B. Rick Witt, Virginia Building and Code Officials

III. Carbon Monoxide Detectors

- There were three proposed code changes in 2007.
- All were rejected because technology is not where it should be. There are many false alarms, and there is conflicting information on where carbon monoxide detectors should be placed in the home.

DELEGATE JOHN A. COSGROVE
DELEGATE ROBERT D. HULL
DELEGATE DANIEL W. MARSHALL, III
DELEGATE MELANIE L. RAPP
DELEGATE TERRIE L. SUIT

SENATOR MAMIE E. LOCKE
SENATOR JOHN C. WATKINS
SENATOR MARY MARGARET WHIPPLE

F. GARY GARCZYNSKI
F. ANDREW HEATWOLE
T. K. SOMANATH

- Members would support this issue if alarms were more reliable and newer technology is developed.

IV. Overcrowding of Residential Dwelling Units (HJR 696)

- Delegate Jackson Miller was not present to discuss HJR 696.
- The Commission discussed three previous bills (2007) on overcrowding.
- First, Delegate Rust's bill was covered which increased penalties for zoning violations.
- Second, Senator Cucinelli's bill was discussed which deals with zoning inspections. The inspectors have to be invited in, and there can be no more than four unrelated people living in an establishment that is zoned single-family residential.
- And third, Delegate Hull's bill which deals with the violation of maintenance codes.
- All of these bills deal with the landlords responsibilities.

V. Public comment

- There was none.

VI. Adjourn

- Meeting Adjourned at 10:30 AM.