

Housing and Environmental Standards

November 8, 2007

House Room 1, Capitol Building

1:00 pm

Meeting Summary

Members Present: Senator Watkins, Senator Whipple, Michael Congleton, James Dawson, Mark Flynn, John Hastings, Ted McCormack, Ed Rhodes and Emory Rodgers

1. Welcome and Call to Order, Senator Watkins

2. Sprinklers; Final Survey, Mark Flynn, Virginia Municipal League

A. Please see attachment - the survey results spreadsheet.

B. Bob Duffus-Richmond Fire Department Chief

- a. There is not a huge financial impact, especially because we want all of these buildings to be safe.
- b. We would like the jurisdiction to be able to adopt these standards, but not necessarily as a state mandate.
- c. The fire department is looking for enabling legislation addressing residential units 75 feet and over that house senior citizens.
- d. Legislation would address residential units only and not office buildings.
- e. **Senator Watkins**-*The issue is how to define residential units as senior or non-senior complexes or buildings.*
- f. There is other technology which could take precedent over sprinklers, such as foam systems and other chemicals.
- g. Chip Dicks and Elizabeth Palen will put a draft bill together and get it to the group before the December 6th meeting.
- h. There were no negative comments from the group on the issue however; no one was present from the Homeowners Association, Apartment and Office Building Association and other housing industry personnel.
- i. The legislation will phase in the requirements, but it will provide incentives for those that act retroactively.

3. Carbon Monoxide Detectors, Chip Dicks, Virginia Association of Realtors

- a. The regulations must be consistent throughout the state and it should be in the building code and not the Virginia Code.
- b. Residents would not be permitted to tamper or remove smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and they can request carbon monoxide detectors to be put in by the landlord just as they can do with smoke detectors.
- c. Tenants themselves can install whatever product they feel is appropriate.
- d. **Senator Whipple**-*If the tenant is installing the device themselves why can't they tamper with them?*
- e. Perhaps language should be added to state "installed by landlord" and make smoke detector and carbon monoxide detectors different subsections.

4. Green Building Rating, Randy Bush, Virginia Forest Products Association

- a. Concerned with a singular system for determining what a green building is.
- b. The LEED program doesn't address the wood source, which he has a problem with and he feels LEED discriminates against wood certification programs, specifically the sustainable forestry industry.
- c. It is an exclusive membership and one program is not good because it eliminates competition with programs that identify broad standards.

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. Meeting adjourned at 2:12 pm.