

**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**OF**  
**TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND**

2008 Legislative Session, Legislative Day No. : January 22, 2008

Bill No.: 1114 \*AS AMENDED\*

Expiration Date: March 27, 2008

Introduced by: Mr. Duncan, Mr. Foster, Mr. Harrison

**AN EMERGENCY BILL TO DEFER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF BILL NUMBER 1106, REQUIRING INSTALLATION OF AUTOMATIC INTERIOR FIRE SPRINKLERS IN ONE AND TWO FAMILY DWELLINGS, FROM MARCH 1, 2008, TO JULY 1, 2008**

By the Council: January 22, 2008

Introduced, read first time, ordered posted, and public hearing scheduled on Tuesday, February 26, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. at the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

By Order \_\_\_\_\_  
Susan W. Moran, Secretary

**AN EMERGENCY BILL TO DEFER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF BILL NUMBER 1106, REQUIRING INSTALLATION OF AUTOMATIC INTERIOR FIRE SPRINKLERS IN ONE AND TWO FAMILY DWELLINGS, FROM MARCH 1, 2008, TO JULY 1, 2008**

SECTION ONE: BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND, that the following amendment to Bill Number 1106, requiring installation of automatic interior fire sprinklers in one and two family dwellings, shall be and is hereby adopted as set forth herein.

THE COUNTY COUNCIL DECLARES that an emergency exists for the following reasons:

- A. The effective date of Bill Number 1106, enacted September 25, 2007, is March 1, 2008. This effective date was deferred in the original Bill beyond the minimum 60 calendar days required by the Talbot County Charter § 214 for the specific purpose of allowing, *inter alia*, local contractors to become familiarized with the new requirements for automatic interior fire sprinklers in one and two family dwellings, and to allow a sufficient number of qualified designers and inspectors to become familiar and available to design and inspect these systems;
- B. In the event, there are only a limited number of qualified contractors capable of designing and installing the automatic interior fire sprinkler systems, and the inspection of these systems is a function that, at present, is to be performed exclusively by the Maryland State Fire Marshal.
- C. The anticipated transition in the construction industry, and the availability of adequate private-sector resources to implement this requirement has not occurred. Implementation of the requirement for automatic interior fire sprinklers on March 1, 2008, under the circumstances will cause confusion and disruption among contractors and will result in untoward delay in reviewing and processing building permit applications and will result in extra costs to applicants.
- D. The County Council believes that the implementation of Bill Number 1106 should be deferred in order to avoid these predictable but avoidable consequences, by allowing sufficient additional time before implementation to develop a coordinated and economically feasible approach to design, construct, and inspect automatic interior fire alarm systems.

**KEY**

**Boldface** .....Heading or defined term.

Underlining .....Added to existing law by original bill.

~~Strikethrough~~.....Deleted from existing law by original bill.

Double underlining .....Added to bill by amendment.

~~Double strikethrough~~ .....Deleted from existing law or bill by amendment.

\* \* \* .....Existing law or bill unaffected.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND that:

The effective date of Bill Number 1106 shall be and is hereby deferred from March 1, 2008 until ~~June~~ July 1, 2008.

SECTION TWO: BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that this Ordinance shall take effect as an emergency measure upon the date of its passage.

SECTION THREE: AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That if any provision of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid for any reason in a court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or any other application of this Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and for this purpose the provisions of this Ordinance are declared severable.

PUBLIC HEARING

Having been posted and Notice of time, date, and place of hearing, and Title of Bill No. 1114 having been published, a public hearing was held on Tuesday, February 26, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

BY THE COUNCIL

Read the third time.

ENACTED: **February 26, 2008 \*AS AMENDED\***

By Order \_\_\_\_\_  
Susan W. Moran, Secretary

Foster	<u>Aye</u>
Pack	<u>Aye</u>
Duncan	<u>Aye</u>
Bartlett	<u>Abstain</u>
Harrison	<u>Aye</u>