AN ACT adopting the 2021 International Plumbing Code and the National Fuel Gas Code (NFPA 54-2021), as the Plumbing and Gasfitting Code for Howard County in order to protect the public health and safety by setting forth criteria for the design and installation of plumbing and gasfitting systems; adopting local amendments to the Plumbing and Gasfitting code; making certain technical corrections; and generally relating to the Plumbing and Gasfitting Code for Howard County.
Section 1. Be It Enacted by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that the Howard County Code is amended as follows:

By repealing and reenacting:

   Title 3. Buildings.

   Subtitle 3. Plumbing and Gasfitting Regulations.

   Section 3.301. General Provisions.

   Section 3.302. Adoption of Plumbing and Gasfitting Code.

TITLE 3. BUILDINGS.

SUBTITLE 3. PLUMBING AND GASFITTING REGULATIONS.

SECTION 3.301. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

(A) PLUMBING AND GASFITTING CODE. There is a Howard County Plumbing and Gasfitting Code, adopted at section 3.302 of this subtitle. All plumbing, gasfitting, and on-site utility work performed in Howard County shall conform to the provisions of the Howard County Plumbing and Gasfitting Code.

(b) DEFINITION OF TERMS. All terms shall be as defined in the Howard County Plumbing and Gasfitting Code.

(c) INTENT. The intent of actions taken pursuant to this subtitle are purely governmental in nature, are conducted solely for the public benefit, and are not to be construed as a warranty of design or construction to any person.

(d) HOMEOWNERS’ RIGHT TO CONDUCT PLUMBING WORK. Notwithstanding any other provision in this subtitle, a permit is not required for a homeowner who personally performs plumbing work in their own residence in the following instances:

(1) For any plumbing work listed in subsections 3.305(A)(4)(I) and (II);

(2) Except for making a final connection between the homeowner’s residence and a public or private disposal system or water supply system, the installation, maintenance, extension, alteration, or removal of piping, a plumbing fixture, a plumbing appliance, a
PLUMBING APPURtenANCE, or other plumbing apparatus is exempt from this subsection if the homeowner provides Howard County with written notification describing the work to be conducted, acknowledging that the work must meet the requirements of the Plumbing and Gasfitting Code, and granting permission to inspect such work; and

(3) The installation, alteration, repair, or maintenance of an exterior roof drain, gutter, downspout, or rain leader.

SECTION 3.302. ADOPTION OF PLUMBING AND GASFITTING CODE.

(A) ADOPTION OF NATIONAL CODES. The 2021 International Plumbing Code, published by the International Code Council, as modified by local amendments, and the National Fuel Gas Code (NFPA 54-2021), published by the National Fire Protection Association, are adopted as the Plumbing and Gasfitting Code for Howard County as if the International Plumbing Code and the National Fuel Gas Code were set out in full in this subtitle.

(b) LOCAL AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL PLUMBING CODE. The following local amendments modify certain provisions of the International Plumbing Code:

(1) SECTION 101.5 PIPING THROUGH ADJACENT PROPERTY.

Add new subsection 101.5 after subsection 101.4 as follows:

Section 101.5 Piping Through Adjacent Property. Sewer, water, and gas piping shall not be installed through property other than the property to be served.

Exception: Piping proposed to pass through property other than the property to be served may be installed through a right-of-way or recorded easement with the permission of the authority having jurisdiction, provided that:

(i) All privileges of a right-of-way or recorded easement are obtained by the property owner desiring service, without any cost, liability, or damage to Howard County;
(II) THE RECORDED EASEMENT OR RIGHT-OF-WAY MEETS ALL REQUIREMENTS OF
THE AUTHORITY HAVING JURISDICTION; AND

(III) THE RECORDED EASEMENT OR RIGHT-OF-WAY SHALL BE GRANTED AND
CONVEYED BY FORMAL DEED RECORDED IN THE LAND RECORDS OF HOWARD
COUNTY.

(2) DELETE SECTION 103 THROUGH SECTION 115, INCLUSIVE AND IN THEIR ENTIRETY.

(3) SECTION 103 ADMINISTRATION. SECTIONS 103 THROUGH 118 OF THE
INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE, 2021 EDITION, AS ADOPTED AND AMENDED IN
THIS SUBTITLE, SHALL GOVERN THE ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE
PLUMBING AND GASFITTING CODE.

(4) SECTION 202 GENERAL DEFINITIONS.

(i) INSERT THE FOLLOWING DEFINITIONS IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER, AS
APPROPRIATE:

A. AUTHORITY HAVING JURISDICTION: THE AUTHORITY HAVING
JURISDICTION IS THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONS,
LICENSES AND PERMITS OR THE DIRECTOR’S AUTHORIZED DESIGNEE.

B. GASFITTING: THE INSTALLATION OR MAINTENANCE OF GAS PIPING AND
EQUIPMENT DESIGNED FOR THE UTILIZATION OF GAS.

C. GASOLINE SERVICE STATION: A FACILITY OFFERING RETAIL SALES TO THE
PUBLIC OF GASOLINE, MOTOR OIL, LUBRICANTS, MOTOR FUELS, TRAVEL
AIDS, AND MINOR AUTOMOBILE ACCESSORIES. A GASOLINE SERVICE
STATION MAY ALSO PROVIDE MOTOR VEHICLE SERVICE, REPAIRS, AND
MAINTENANCE INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, PAINTING AND BODY
WORK.

D. LICENSED MASTER PLUMBER: AN INDIVIDUAL LICENSED BY THE
MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF PLUMBING TO PROVIDE PLUMBING SERVICES.

E. MASTER GASFITTER: AN INDIVIDUAL LICENSED BY THE MARYLAND STATE
BOARD OF PLUMBING TO PROVIDE GASFITTING SERVICES.

F. ON-SITE UTILITY: A WATER, SEWER, OR STORM DRAIN SYSTEM SERVING
PRIVATE PROPERTY EXTENDING FROM THE PROPERTY LINE TO A DISTANCE
OF 5 FEET FROM ANY NEWLY CONSTRUCTED IMPROVEMENT ON A
PROPERTY. An on-site utility shall include a final connection to a 
public or private water, sanitary sewer, or storm drain system. 
An on-site utility shall not include a connection that is within 5 
feet from any newly constructed improvement on the property.

G. **ON-SITE UTILITY CONTRACTOR**: A person, company, firm, or 
corporation whose official holds a Howard County on-site 
utility contractor’s license.

H. **ON-SITE UTILITY WORK**: The installation, repair, or maintenance 
of any on-site utility.

I. **PLUMBING PERMIT, EXPRESS**: A prepaid residential permit that can 
be used by a master plumber for the installation of up to 5 
plumbing fixtures.

J. **PLUMBING PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS**: Any plan or specification 
required by the authority having jurisdiction and by section 
107.2.1.1 of the Howard County Building Code prior to issuance of 
a plumbing permit.

(5) **SECTION 302 Exclusion of Materials Detrimental to the Sewer System.**

Delete this section and substitute the following:

302 Discharges to the public sewer system.

302.1 General. Any discharge to the public sewer system shall conform 
to the standards and requirements of section 18.122A, “Regulation of 
discharges to the public sewerage systems”, of the Howard County 
Code.

(6) **SECTION 305.4 Freezing.**

Delete the last sentence and substitute “Exterior water supply piping 
shall be installed not less than 36 inches below grade.”.

(7) **SECTION 305.4.1 Sewer Depth**

(i) Delete the first sentence; and

(ii) Insert “30 inches” into the second sentence.

(8) **TABLE 403.1 Minimum Number of Required Plumbing Fixtures**

Delete footnote F.
(9) **SECTION 404.2 ACCESSIBLE FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS**

At the end of the sentence delete “ICC A117.1” and substitute “the Maryland Accessibility Code”.

(10) **SECTION 410.4 SUBSTITUTION.**

In the second sentence, after “where”, delete “three or more”.

(11) **SECTION 603.1 SIZE OF WATER SERVICE PIPE.**

In the last sentence, delete “¾ inch (19.1mm)” and substitute “1 inch”.

(12) **TABLE 605.3 WATER SERVICE PIPE.**

In the column titled “material”, in the row titled “copper or copper-alloy tubing”, delete types “M” and “WM”.

(13) **SECTION 608.18 PROTECTION OF INDIVIDUAL WATER SUPPLIES.**

Delete this section in its entirety.

(14) **SECTION 705.10.2 SOLVENT CEMENTING.**

Delete the exceptions.

(15) **SECTION 714.1 SEWAGE BACKFLOW.**

In the first and second sentences and in the exception, in all instances, after “public” insert “or private”.

(16) **SECTION 903 VENT TERMINALS.**

In subsection 903.1.1, insert the number “6” where indicated.

(17) **SECTION 918 AIR ADMITTANCE VALVES.**

Delete this section in its entirety.

(18) **CHAPTER 13 NONPOTABLE WATER SYSTEMS.**

Delete this chapter in its entirety.

Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that this Act shall become effective 61 days after its enactment.