

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
Legislative Session 2015, Legislative Day No. 14

Bill No. 63-15

All Council
By Request of County Executive

By the County Council, September 8, 2015

A BILL
ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Modification of Residential Solar Energy System Requirements

FOR the purpose of amending certain provisions ~~Section R324.7 titled "Access and pathways" of the 2015 edition of the ICC International Residential Code adopted as a part of the Building Code of Baltimore County, Maryland, by Bill No. 40-15 and amending Section 11.12.2.2.2.1 titled "Access and Pathways" for one and two family dwellings and townhouses within the 2012 edition of NFPA 1, Fire Code, adopted as part of the Baltimore County Fire Prevention Code by Bill No. 63-13; and generally relating to the requirements for residential solar energy systems relating to residential solar energy requirements in the 2015 edition of the International Residential Code adopted as a part of the Building Code of Baltimore County, Maryland by Bill 40-15, and in the 2012 edition of NFPA 1, Fire Code, adopted as part of the Baltimore County Fire Prevention Code by Bill No. 63-13; and generally relating to requirements for residential solar energy systems.~~

1 **SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY,**
2 **MARYLAND** that the following exception is added to Section R324.7.2.3 of the 2015 edition of the ICC
3 International Residential Code, adopted as part of the Building Code of Baltimore County, Council Bill 40-
4 15: EXCEPTION 2. WHERE A SINGLE 4 FEET WIDE CLEAR PATHWAY IS INSTALLED IN THE
5 CENTER THIRD OF THE ROOF LENGTH AND IS NOT LOCATED OVER A WINDOW OR DOOR
6 OPENING AND WITH NO OVERHEAD OBSTRUCTIONS SUCH AS TREE LIMBS, WIRES OR
7 SIGNS, A SINGLE PATHWAY SHALL BE ALLOWED.

8

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from bill.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

1 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED** that the following Section R324.7.2.6 is added
2 to the 2015 edition of the ICC International Residential Code, adopted as part of the Building Code of
3 Baltimore County, Council Bill 40-15: R324.7.2.6 CHIMNEY ACCESS. A MINIMUM OF 3 FEET
4 CLEAR SPACE SHALL BE PROVIDED AROUND ALL SOLID FUEL-BURNING CHIMNEYS FOR
5 EMERGENCY ACCESS.

6
7 **SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED** that the following Section R324.7.2.7 is
8 added to the 2015 edition of the ICC International Residential Code, adopted as part of the Building Code
9 of Baltimore County, Council Bill 40-15: R324.7.2.7 **ALLOWANCE FOR WIRING TO CROSS**
10 **PATHWAYS. ALL WIRING SHALL BE ALLOWED TO CROSS PATHWAYS AND SHALL BE**
11 **DESIGNED TO TAKE THE SHORTEST PATH FROM THE ARRAY TO THE DC COMBINER BOX,**
12 **BE CLEARLY IDENTIFIED, AND BE PROTECTED IN RIGID METAL CONDUITS, SCHEDULE 80**
13 **PVC, OR EMT. ALL RACEWAYS MUST BE KEPT AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE TO THE ROOF**
14 **SURFACE SO AS TO NOT PRESENT A TRIPPING HAZARD WHILE STILL PERMITTING**
15 **WATER TO FLOW UNDERNEATH THE RACEWAY. VENTS AND PLUMBING VENTS WITHIN**
16 **A PATHWAY WILL NOT AFFECT MEASUREMENT OF A SETBACK.**

17
18 **SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED** that the following exception is added to Section
19 R324.7.1. of the 2015 edition of the ICC International Residential Code, adopted as part of the Building
20 Code of Baltimore County, Council Bill 40-15: EXCEPTION: WHERE THERE IS MORE THAN ONE
21 PATHWAY ON A ROOF, ONLY ONE OF THE ROOF ACCESS POINTS MUST BE IN A LOCATION
22 WHERE FIRE DEPARTMENT LADDERS ARE NOT PLACED OVER OPENINGS (WINDOWS OR
23 DOORS).

24
25 **SECTION 3 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED** that the following exception be added to
26 Section ~~11.12.2.2.1~~ 11.12.2.2.1 of the 2012 edition of NFPA 1, Fire Code, adopted as part of the
27 Baltimore County Fire Prevention Code, Council Bill 63-13: EXCEPTION: WHERE A SINGLE 4 FEET

1 WIDE CLEAR ACCESS PATHWAY IS INSTALLED IN THE CENTER THIRD OF THE ROOF
2 LENGTH AND IS NOT LOCATED OVER A WINDOW OR DOOR OPENING AND WITH NO
3 OVERHEAD OBSTRUCTIONS SUCH AS TREE LIMBS, WIRES OR SIGNS, A SINGLE PATHWAY
4 SHALL BE ALLOWED.

5

6 **SECTION 4-6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED** that Section 11.12.2.2.2.1 is added to the
7 2012 edition of NFPA 1, Fire Code, adopted as part of the Baltimore County Fire Prevention Code, Council
8 Bill 63-13: 11.12.2.2.2.1 CHIMNEY ACCESS. A MINIMUM OF 3 FEET CLEAR SPACE SHALL BE
9 PROVIDED AROUND ALL SOLID FUEL-BURNING CHIMNEYS FOR EMERGENCY ACCESS.

10

11 **SECTION 7. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED** that the following section is added to the
12 2012 edition of the NFPA 1, Fire Code, adopted as part of the Baltimore County Fire Prevention Code,
13 Council Bill 63-13: Section 11.12.2.2.4 ALLOWANCE FOR WIRING TO CROSS PATHWAYS.
14 ALL WIRING SHALL BE ALLOWED TO CROSS PATHWAYS AND SHALL BE DESIGNED TO
15 TAKE THE SHORTEST PATH FROM THE ARRAY TO THE DC COMBINER BOX, BE CLEARLY
16 IDENTIFIED, AND BE PROTECTED IN RIGID METAL CONDUITS, SCHEDULE 80 PVC, OR
17 EMT. ALL RACEWAYS MUST BE KEPT AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE TO THE ROOF SURFACE SO
18 AS TO NOT PRESENT A TRIPPING HAZARD WHILE STILL PERMITTING WATER TO FLOW
19 UNDERNEATH THE RACEWAY. VENTS AND PLUMBING VENTS WITHIN A PATHWAY WILL
20 NOT AFFECT MEASUREMENT OF A SETBACK.

21

22 **SECTION 8. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED** that the following exception is added to Section
23 11.12.2.2.1.3 of the 2012 edition of NFPA 1, Fire Code, adopted as part of the Baltimore County Fire
24 Prevention Code, Council Bill 63-13: EXCEPTION: WHERE THERE IS MORE THAN ONE PATHWAY
25 ON A ROOF, ONLY ONE OF THE ROOF ACCESS POINTS MUST BE IN A LOCATION WHERE
26 FIRE DEPARTMENT LADDERS ARE NOT PLACED OVER OPENINGS (WINDOWS OR DOORS).

1 **SECTION 5 9. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED**, that this Act, having been passed by the
2 affirmative vote of five members of the County Council, shall take effect on October 19, 2015.