

## Code Development Year-in-Review

Every three years, Virginia's building and fire codes are updated to the latest edition of the model international codes. The Virginia construction, fire and related regulations are adopted and updated by the Board of Housing and Community Development through Virginia's Code Development Process.

Virginia is a national leader in code development, due in part to our robust partner participation and transparent process. Throughout this code cycle, we had 571 stakeholders engaged and held 40 public input meetings. DHCD facilitates public workgroup meetings and encourages anyone interested to participate and provide input, ensuring that everyone that might be impacted by a proposed change has a voice in the process. Virginia's award winning code development software (cdpVA) ensures that all code development information is available to everyone.

The 2021 code update process began at the end of 2021 and will continue into 2023. In December 2022, the proposed 2021 regulations were approved by the Board of Housing and Community Development for publishing and additional public comment. The 2021 codes are on track to become effective in late 2023. In 2022, as part of an effort to increase access to the Virginia codes, the current 2018 edition of Virginia's construction and fire regulations were translated into Spanish and made available on DHCD's website.

In 2022, as part of an effort to increase access to the Virginia codes, the current 2018 edition of Virginia's construction and fire regulations were translated into Spanish and made available on DHCD's website.



## 2022 Snapshot

Code  
Changes



179

Public Input  
Meetings



40

Stakeholders  
Engaged



571

- **Emergency Communications**
- **Townhouse Sprinklers**
- **Active Shooter Barricade Devices**
- **Energy**
- **Resiliency**
- **Statewide Fire Prevention**



## State Technical Review Board Year-in-Review

The State Technical Review Board (STRB) plays a key role in ensuring the building and fire codes in Virginia are administered fairly and consistently. STRB is a 14-member, Governor-appointed board whose primary purpose is to hear building and fire code appeals. STRB hears appeals of local code officials' decisions, made under the following Virginia regulations:

- Uniform Statewide Building Code
- Statewide Fire Prevention Code
- Industrialized Building Safety Regulations
- Amusement Device Regulations
- Certification Standards

The STRB also provides formal interpretations of the codes and makes recommendations to the Board of Housing and Community Development for future code modifications, amendments, or repeals of such provisions. In 2022, the STRB heard 19 appeals, issued six final orders and issued four formal code interpretations.



### 2022 Snapshot

Appeals  
Considered



19

Final Orders  
Issued



6

Interpretations  
Issued



4