Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)
Division of Building and Fire Regulation
Code Change Process

Virginia's building and fire codes are state regulations, and as such, a formal process is used to update them to the latest model codes and standards. That process can be tracked on the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall (http://townhall.virginia.gov/).

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall

- Tracks the entire code change process
- Includes dates for public hearings and public comment periods
- Provides links to the publication of the proposed and final stages of the regulation in the Virginia Register

Workgroups

- DHCD uses workgroups to facilitate client group interaction during the code development process.
- Workgroups are open to the public. If you would like to be added to the notification list for workgroups, please contact sbco@dhcd.virginia.gov.
- Workgroups determine if proposals have consensus support or should receive full review by the Board of Housing and Community Development
- Workgroup meetings and agendas can be found on the code development pages

DHCD' s Code Development Webpages

- The Board of Housing and Community Development meetings and agendas are posted on the code development webpages.
- Important notices and dates from Town Hall are posted on the code development webpage for convenience, but the full process and official information is maintained on Town Hall.
- Information on the previous code development cycle is maintained on a separate webpage.

Prior to the 2015 code development cycle, DHCD partnered with the International Code Council (ICC) to develop a customized code development system, similar to ICC's cdpACCESS, for Virginia. cdpVA (Code development process Virginia) was launched and proved to be invaluable during the 2015 cycle. cdpVA was upgraded in 2018 with several improvements and new features. The upgraded system will be launched when cdpVA is opened for the 2018 code development cycle (February 18, 2019)

A flow chart of the code development process from commencement to completion is provided on the following page.

Questions or inquiries may be directed to staff of the State Building Codes Office at sbco@dhcd.virginia.gov, or by calling (804) 371-7150.

Flow Chart for the Development of the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code, the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code, the Virginia Industrialized Building Safety Regulations and the Virginia Amusement Device Regulations

DHCD staff develops base documents

Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA)

30 day public comment period

Proposals are vetted through workgroups

Proposals received too late for workgroups are moved to final phase

BHCD conducts a public hearing prior to developing proposed regulations

Joint public hearing with Fire Services Board (FSB) for Statewide Fire Prevention Code

DHCD staff compiles public comments and code change proposals

BHCD's Codes and Standards Committee reviews all proposals

Board of Housing & Community Development approves proposed regulations

BHCD's Fire Code Development Committee reviews proposals for the Statewide Fire Prevention Code

60 day comment period with deadline for submitting proposals at end of 60-day period

Proposed regulations are published in the Virginia Register

Board of Housing & Community Development conducts a public hearing

Joint public hearing with FSB for Statewide Fire Prevention Code

Proposals are vetted through workgroups

DHCD staff compiles public comments and code change proposals

BHCD's Codes and Standards Committee reviews all proposals

Joint meeting of BHCD and FSB for SFPC proposals

BHCD approves final regulations

BHCD's Fire Code Development Committee reviews proposals for the Statewide Fire Prevention Code

Subsequent to approval by the Governor's Office, final regulations are published in the Virginia Register