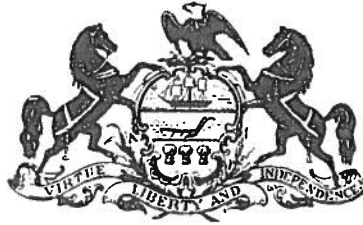


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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

Environmental Resources and Energy
Game and Fisheries
Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness

MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Garth Everett, State Representative
84th Legislative District

DATE: December 7, 2010

SUBJECT: Introduction of Legislation – Eliminate Automatic Sprinkler Mandate

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "G.E.", written over the "FROM:" line of the memorandum.

As most of you are aware, the automatic sprinkler requirement for new homes becomes effective January 1, 2011; this requirement was inherited with the adoption of 2009 ICC codes which was required by the Pennsylvania Construction Code Act (Act 45 of 1999). Without a statutory change to the act, the residential sprinkler requirement becomes permanent. My legislation proposes to amend Section 901 ("Exemptions") of Act 45 to add language to state that Section R313.2 (Relating to automatic fire sprinkler systems in one- and two-family dwellings) of the International Residential Code (2009 Edition), or its successor triennial revisions, shall not be part of the Uniform Construction Code (UCC). In essence, my legislation eliminates the automatic sprinkler requirement for residential homes.

I believe that this sprinkler mandate is bad public policy because it: 1) will add increased costs (anywhere from \$5-\$20k) to the new construction of homes which will further decrease sales in an already sluggish market; 2) will be especially costly in rural areas where there is no public water service and where homes will require installation of storage tanks to hold necessary water supply (almost one-third of Pennsylvania's residents live in single family homes in rural areas which rely on well water); and 3) are not necessary because homes that have fully functional interconnected smoke detectors give the residents a 99.45% chance of surviving a fire.

I have already heard from many of my constituents who are opposed to this mandate, and who are angry about the added costs they will be paying for new homes. I am sure many of you are already hearing from your constituents about their opposition to this requirement. Please join me in sponsoring this legislation by contacting Chanin Zwing at 787-5270 or via e-mail at czwing@pahousegop.com. Thank you.

GDE/clz