

May 27, 2021

Pennsylvania House Labor & Industry Committee
Worker's Compensation and Worker Protection Sub-Committee
Hearing – Overview of the Uniform Construction Code
May 27, 2021
11:00 am – 12:30 pm
515 Irvis Office Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

First let me introduce myself. My name is Walter G. M. Schneider III. I am a registered professional engineer in six (6) states and have an earned doctorate in Structural Engineering from the Pennsylvania State University. I am the appointed structural engineer on the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code (UCC) Review and Advisory Council (RAC), and in October 2020 was elected as the Council Chair.

In Act 45 of 1999 as amended, known as the Pennsylvania Construction Code Act, a review and advisory council was established with the following duties:

- Gather information from municipal officers, building code officials, construction code officials, licensed design professionals, builders, property owners, construction trades and consumer representatives concerning issues with the Uniform Construction Code raised by council members or changes proposed by members of the General Assembly.
- Evaluate the information compiled and make recommendations to the following:
 - The Governor
 - The Secretary of Labor & Industry
 - The members of any legislative committee considering amendments to this act
 - The President pro tempore of the Senate
 - The Speaker of the House of Representatives
 - The International Code Council
- With the exception of the accessibility provisions, review the updated sections as published by the International Code Council (ICC) family of codes, as provided under section 108 of the Act, or other sections of the collective codes, and within twenty-four (24) months provide a report to the Secretary of the Department of Labor & Industry detail the codes for adoption and/or modification.

The composition of the RAC is twenty-one (21) legal residents of the Commonwealth with expertise in various areas of the construction industry. The RAC members are appointed by a combination of the Governor of the Commonwealth, the President pro tempore of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, with the specific appointments being detailed in the Act. All of the RAC members serve three (3) year terms.

One of the most important and time-consuming duties assigned to the RAC is the updating of the UCC. In August 2017 the ICC officially published the 2018 International Codes. In accordance with the requirements of Act 45 of 1999 as amended, the RAC initiated review of the 2018 International Codes on May 14, 2019, twenty-one (21) months after publication. During the May 14, 2019 meeting, which was properly advertised in accordance with the Act and with a quorum present, the RAC voted not to consider any additional sections beyond those that had been modified and published by the ICC national review process. After clarification by vote of the RAC regarding the sections to be reviewed in the 2018 adoption process, a vote of the RAC was taken and passed unanimously to initiate review and adoption of the 2018 International Codes.

As part of the review and adoption of the 2018 International Codes, the following are some key actions that were taken, and the corresponding dates that they occurred:

- August 31, 2017 – ICC publishes the 2018 International Codes
- May 14, 2019 – RAC initiates the review and adoption process for the 2018 International Codes
- June 13, 2019 – Public comment was opened and remained open for 120 days
- June 13, 2019 – Request for Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members was opened and remained open for 30 days
- October 15, 2019 – Public comments were assigned to the TAC committees for review and recommendation
- December 1, 2020 – TAC reports were posted to the RAC website
- December 15, 2020 – Public hearing was held on Zoom after being properly advertised in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* and *PennLive*, a newspaper with regular circulation in the central portion of the Commonwealth
- December 16, 2020 – Public hearing was held on Zoom after being properly advertised in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* and *Morning Call*, a newspaper with regular circulation in the eastern portion of the Commonwealth
- December 17, 2020 – Public hearing was held on Zoom after being properly advertised in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* and *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, a newspaper with regular circulation in the Western portion of the Commonwealth
- January 7, 2021 – RAC received the transcripts of the three (3) public hearings and began deliberations and adoption of the 2018 International Codes
- April 29, 2021 – RAC submitted the final report detailing the codes to adopt and modify to Jennifer L. Berrier, Esq., Acting Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry

The following are some statistics regarding the RAC interaction with the building industry and public during as part of the code review and adoption process:

The RAC received 126 public comments during the initial 120-day public comment period.

These public comments were forwarded to the TAC's for review, and comment.

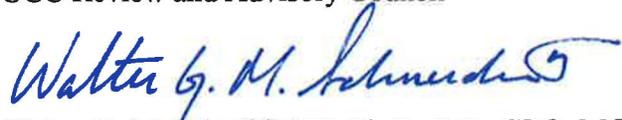
Fifty-seven (57) citizens of the Commonwealth applied and were appointed to participate on the nine (9) TAC's as part of the review.

Forty-one (41) speakers offered fifty-nine (59) comments over the three (3) days of public hearings held to receive public comment on the TAC reports.

Public comments were taken during final deliberation on each individual code during the final deliberation in the first third of 2021.

I would be happy to answer any questions that the Committee may have.

Respectfully submitted
UCC Review and Advisory Council

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Walter G. M. Schneider III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'W' and a distinct 'S' at the end.

Walter G. M. Schneider III, Ph.D., P.E., CBO, MCP, CFO, MIFireE, FASCE
Committee Chair