

# SUPPORT HB951

Topic: Building Code Transparency

Bill Patron: Del. Lopez

## OVERVIEW:

HB 951 updates the statute governing the Board of Housing and Community Development by clarifying how the Board must handle recommendations from ad hoc committees convened to review proposed changes to statewide building and fire regulations. Specifically, it ensures the Board evaluates and votes on all proposals brought forward by such committees, even if the committee did not reach full consensus.

## REASONS TO SUPPORT:

- **Strengthens Democratic Process and Transparency:** HB 951 creates a clear standard that all proposals from advisory ad hoc committees are considered by the Board during a regular meeting — not simply voted on in a block without discussion if consensus was lacking. This enhances transparency in how regulatory changes are deliberated.
- **Ensures Diverse Stakeholder Input Matters:** By requiring Board consideration of ad hoc committee proposals — including non-consensus recommendations — the bill ensures voices from across affected industries and stakeholders aren't sidelined. This fosters more inclusive policymaking.
- **Encourages Thoughtful and Balanced Building Code Changes:** Building and fire regulations affect safety, housing affordability, and economic development statewide. HB 951 supports rigorous review of proposed change, ensuring that regulatory updates balance safety goals with practical implications for builders, local governments, and residents.
- **Supports Stakeholder Confidence in the Process:** When industry groups, advocates, and affected parties invest time in ad hoc committees, they deserve assurance that their recommendations will be formally reviewed and decided upon. This builds trust in the process and encourages continued engagement.
- **Maintains Legislative Guidance While Enhancing Board Function:** HB 951 doesn't expand regulatory power ; rather, it clarifies procedures within an existing regulatory framework, helping the Board function more effectively and predictably for communities and businesses.



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This position was taken by Virginia Conservation Network (VCN)'s Legislative Committee and Board of Directors and is supported by Virginia's conservation community. For a complete list of VCN positions, visit [www.vcnva.org/bill-tracker](http://www.vcnva.org/bill-tracker). VCN is committed to building a powerful, diverse, and highly-coordinated conservation movement focused on protecting our Commonwealth's natural resources today and for tomorrow.