

Introduced October 5, 2020
Public Hearing October 19, 2020
Council Action November 2, 2020
Executive Action November 4, 2020
Effective Date January 5, 2021

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2020 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 14

Bill No. 54 -2020

Introduced by: The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

AN ACT adopting the 2020 National Electrical Code as the Electrical Code for Howard County; regulating the design, construction, alteration, improvement or modification to electrical equipment; adopting certain local amendments to the Electrical Code; making certain technical corrections; and generally relating to the electrical code in Howard County.

Introduced and read first time October 5, 2020. Ordered posted and hearing scheduled.

By order

Diane Schwartz Jones
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator

Having been posted and notice of time & place of hearing & title of Bill having been published according to Charter, the Bill was read for a second time at a public hearing on October 19, 2020.

By order

Diane Schwartz Jones
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator

This Bill was read the third time on November 2 2020 and Passed Passed with amendments Failed .

By order

Diane Schwartz Jones
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this 3rd day of November, 2020 at 11:30 a.m./p.m.

By order

Diane Schwartz Jones
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator

Approved/Vetoed by the County Executive November 4, 2020

Calvin Ball
Calvin Ball, County Executive

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; Strike-out indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.

1 **Section 1. Be It Enacted** by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that the
2 Howard County Code is amended as follows:

3 *By repealing and reenacting:*

- 4 1. *Title 3. Buildings.*
- 5 *Subtitle 2. Electrical Regulations.*
- 6 *Section 3.214. Adoption of National Electrical Code.*

7
8 **Title 3. Buildings.**

9 **Subtitle 2. Electrical Regulations.**

10

11 **SECTION 3.214. ADOPTION OF NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE.**

12 (A) (1) THE 2020 EDITION (NFPA 70) OF THE NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE, WITH
13 AMENDMENTS AS LISTED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, IS HEREBY
14 ADOPTED AS THE ELECTRICAL CODE FOR HOWARD COUNTY, AS IF THE
15 NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE WERE SET OUT IN FULL IN THIS SECTION.

16 (2) A PERSON PERFORMING OR CAUSING THE PERFORMANCE OF ELECTRICAL
17 WORK SHALL CONFORM TO THE HOWARD COUNTY ELECTRICAL CODE AND
18 TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE HOWARD COUNTY BUILDING CODE ADOPTED IN
19 TITLE 3, SUBTITLE 1 OF THIS CODE.

20 (3) IF A CONFLICT EXISTS BETWEEN THE HOWARD COUNTY BUILDING CODE
21 AND THE HOWARD COUNTY ELECTRICAL CODE, THE CODE REQUIRING THE
22 HIGHER STANDARD SHALL GOVERN.

23 (B) THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS MODIFY CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE ADOPTED CODE:

24 (1) *SECTION 90.4. ENFORCEMENT.*
25 ADD A SENTENCE AT THE END OF THIS SECTION AS FOLLOWS: "IF THERE IS A
26 CONFLICT BETWEEN THIS SECTION AND ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS
27 SUBTITLE, THE REQUIREMENT OF THE OTHER PROVISION SHALL GOVERN."

28 (2) *ARTICLE 100. DEFINITIONS.*
29 DELETE THE SENTENCE FOLLOWING "AUTHORITY HAVING JURISDICTION
30 (AHJ)." AND SUBSTITUTE THE FOLLOWING, "THE AUTHORITY HAVING

JURISDICTION IS THE BUILDING OFFICIAL AS SET FORTH IN SECTION 3.101(A)(2) OF THIS CODE.

(3) *SECTION 210.8. GROUND-FAULT CIRCUIT-INTERRUPTER PROTECTION FOR PERSONNEL.*

IN SUBSECTION (F), OUTDOOR OUTLETS, IN THE EXCEPTION, AFTER “COVERED IN 210.8(C)”, INSERT “, AND HEATING, AIR-CONDITIONING AND REFRIGERATION EQUIPMENT THAT SERVE THE DWELLING”.

(4) *SECTION 230.85. EMERGENCY DISCONNECTS.*

ADD AN EXCEPTION AS FOLLOWS: “EXCEPTION: WHERE PHYSICAL AND PRACTICAL LIMITATIONS PREVENT AN OUTDOOR DISCONNECT, THE CODE OFFICIAL MAY APPROVE AN ALTERNATIVE LOCATION”.

(5) *SECTION 240.21. LOCATION IN CIRCUIT.*

AMEND SUBSECTION (B), FEEDER TAPS, BY ADDING A SECOND EXCEPTION TO ITEM (B)(1) AND A NEW EXCEPTION TO ITEM (B)(2) AS FOLLOWS:
EXCEPTION: IN METER ROOMS, THE CONDUCTORS WITHIN THE AUXILIARY GUTTER THAT SUPPLIES THE METER SHALL NOT COUNT AS A PART OF THE TOTAL LENGTH.”

(6) *SECTION 250.52. GROUNDING ELECTRODES.*

~~ADD THE FOLLOWING TO THE BEGINNING OF SUBSECTION 250.52(A)(3):
“CONCRETE ENCASED ELECTRODES: EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT, THE PRINCIPAL GROUNDING ELECTRODE FOR A NEW STRUCTURE IS A CONCRETE ENCASED ELECTRODE INSTALLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBSECTION.”~~

SECTION 250.50. GROUNDING ELECTRODE SYSTEM. AFTER THE SECOND SENTENCE THAT ENDS “INSTALLED AND USED.” INSERT: “FOR BUILDINGS OR STRUCTURES FED WITH ELECTRIC POWER WHERE THE ELECTRODE AS DESCRIBED IN 250.52(A)(3)(1) DOES NOT EXIST, AN ELECTRODE THAT COMPLIES WITH 250.52(A)(3)(1) OR 250.52(A)(3)(2) SHALL BE INSTALLED AND USED.”.

(7) *SECTION 310.3. CONDUCTORS.*

1 IN SUBSECTION (A) MINIMUM SIZE OF CONDUCTORS, AFTER “14 AWG
2 COPPER OR”, DELETE “12” AND SUBSTITUTE “4”.

3 (8) *ANNEX H. ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT.*

4 ONLY THE PROVISIONS OF SUBSECTION 80.9 ARE ADOPTED. THE REMAINDER
5 OF ANNEX H IS SPECIFICALLY AND INTENTIONALLY NOT ADOPTED.

6

7 *Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted by the County Council of Howard County,*

8 *Maryland, that this Act shall become effective 61 days after its enactment.*