



# FLORIDA FIRE MARSHALS AND INSPECTORS ASSOCIATION

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## Senate Bill 7000 House Bill 901 Florida Building Commission 2017 (Updated 03/10/17)

The Florida Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association (FFMIA) is opposed to these bills as there are negative impacts on a number of long standing initiatives. Among them is our Legislative position on weakening of model codes in general. The following statements support our concerns and purposes in opposition of this bill as proposed, however we remain available and willing to participate in discussions to find a reasonable solution for all parties with an interest.

1. FFMIA is seeking further clarification on the intent of this bill. As we read this, there are concerns for negative impacts on the Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) and the relationship to the National Flood Insurance Program/Community Rating System (NFIP CRS). Delays in adoption of the model code will result in increased insurance rates for many Floridians.
  
2. FFMIA is opposed to the removal of any NFPA codes within the adopted model codes (Florida Building Code and Florida Fire Prevention Code). The FBC currently houses 30 NFPA standards that would have to be individually adopted and integrated into each update under this proposed bill. This is not practical and will have a severe ripple effect impacting:
  - contractors attempting to apply new technology that may not be acceptable per the current code,
  - the regulatory authorities who will require constant schooling to understand current code requirements that will be costly to local governments as an unfunded mandate,
  - and ultimately the property owner who will bear the brunt of excessive costs resulting from this action.

While FFMIA understands this is a building code bill, we remain very vigilant in our efforts to protect all regulatory efforts that have been built over the years. With the guidance and assistance of our many predecessors through lessons learned by many tragic events and the forward thinking in accepting our recommendations and concerns within the Florida Legislature, Florida's residents, visitors and workers enjoy a safely built environment. This is not by accident, rather intentional through many years of trust building and teamwork.