

UPDATE ON NEW NORTH CAROLINA STATE BUILDING CODE EFFECTIVE DATES

On March 19, 2025, North Carolina Governor Josh Stein signed into law the Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 – Part 1. The bill includes many items intended to assist western North Carolina residents and businesses in the continued recovery from the devastation of Hurricane Helene.

One of the items addresses the effective date of the 2024 North Carolina State Building Code. The code was originally set to become effective on January 1, 2025; however, General Assembly Session Law 2024-57, enacted December 11, 2024, then delayed the effective date of the 2024 North Carolina State Building Code until July 1, 2025.

The Governor's signature of the Disaster Recovery act has now delayed the effective date of the new codes for at least one year, meaning that **the 2024 codes will not become effective until some time after April 1, 2026**. The details of the process are contained in the excerpt which follows on Page 2 of this notice.

All examinations pertaining to licenses issued by the State Board of Examiners of Plumbing, Heating, and Fire Sprinkler Contractors that are based on the North Carolina State Building Code will use the 2018 Editions of the Codes through at least March 31, 2026, and until such date that the 2024 codes are made effective.

This includes:

- Administration Code & Policies
- Plumbing Code
- Fuel Gas Code
- Mechanical Code
- Energy Conservation Code
- Residential Code

The NFPA Standards referenced by the 2018 building code will also remain effective, and include:

- NFPA 13 – 2013 Edition
- NFPA 13D – 2013 Edition
- NFPA 25 — 2014 Edition

Following is Section 5.12.(a), which addresses the delayed effective date of the 2024 code.

**AN ACT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTEND REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY
FOR COMMUNITIES AND CITIZENS IMPACTED BY HURRICANE HELENE.**

DELAY 2024 NORTH CAROLINA STATE BUILDING CODE EFFECTIVE DATE

SECTION 5.12.(a) Definitions. – For purposes of this section, "2024 North Carolina State Building Code" means the North Carolina State Building Code collection and amendments to the Code, as adopted by the Building Code Council, effective July 1, 2025.

SECTION 5.12.(b) Effective Date Delay. – Notwithstanding G.S. 143-138(d), Section 2 of S.L. 2013-118, Section 1F.3.(b) of S.L. 2024-57, or any other provision to the contrary, the 2024 North Carolina State Building Code shall become effective 12 months after the first day of the month following the date the State Fire Marshal certifies, by letter to the Revisor of Statutes with copies sent to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, that both of the following events have occurred:

(1) The Building Code Council and Residential Code Council have completed all of the following publication and distribution requirements:

- a. The initial publication and printing of the adopted 2024 North Carolina State Building Code, including all amendments adopted as of the effective date of this act.
- b. The distribution of copies of the initially published 2024 North Carolina State Building Code to all State and local officials and departments who are required to receive copies of the Code under G.S. 143-138(g) without the necessity of a written request. The making of copies of the initial publication of the 2024 North Carolina State Building Code available for purchase by members of the general public. The Residential Code Council is fully constituted in accordance with the membership requirements set forth in G.S. 143-136.1.

SECTION 5.12.(c) Notification Required. – Upon the occurrence of both events specified in subdivisions (1) and (2) of subsection (b) of this section, the State Fire Marshal shall send certification as required under subsection (b) of this section.

SECTION 5.12.(d) No Abrogation. – Nothing in this section abrogates the duties of the Building Code Council or Residential Code Council during the delay created by subsection (b) of this section, including finalizing its publication, providing technical assistance, and educating the public regarding changes to the North Carolina State Building Code.

SECTION 5.12.(e) Expiration. – This section expires 12 months after the first day of the month following the notification required by the State Fire Marshal in subsection (c) of this section.