

MEMORANDUM

June 15, 2018

TO: County Council

FROM: Amanda Mihill, Legislative Attorney *A. Mihill*

SUBJECT: Bill 23-18, Fire Safety – Carbon Monoxide Alarm

PURPOSE: Introduction – no Council votes required

Bill 23-18, Fire Safety – Carbon Monoxide Alarm, sponsored by Lead Sponsor Councilmember Rice, is scheduled to be introduced on June 19, 2018. A public hearing is tentatively scheduled for July 10 at 1:30 p.m.

Bill 23-18 would require the owners of a single-unit, two-unit, and townhouse dwelling unit to install and maintain a carbon monoxide alarm.

This packet contains:	<u>Circle #</u>
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Bill No. 23-18
Concerning: Fire Safety - Carbon
Monoxide Alarm
Revised: 6/11/2018 Draft No. 3
Introduced: June 19, 2018
Expires: December 19, 2019
Enacted: _____
Executive: _____
Effective: _____
Sunset Date: None
Ch. _____, Laws of Mont. Co. _____

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Lead Sponsor: Councilmember Rice

AN ACT to:

- (1) require the owners of certain dwelling units to install and maintain a carbon monoxide alarm; and
- (2) generally amend County fire safety laws.

By adding

Montgomery County Code
Chapter 22, Fire Safety Code
Section 22-99

Boldface	<i>Heading or defined term.</i>
<u>Underlining</u>	<i>Added to existing law by original bill.</i>
[Single boldface brackets]	<i>Deleted from existing law by original bill.</i>
<u>Double underlining</u>	<i>Added by amendment.</i>
[[Double boldface brackets]]	<i>Deleted from existing law or the bill by amendment.</i>
* * *	<i>Existing law unaffected by bill.</i>

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following Ac

1 **Sec. 1. Section 22-99 is added as follows:**

2 **22-99. Carbon monoxide alarm required.**

3 (a) Required.

4 (1) The owner of each occupied single-unit, two-unit, and townhouse
5 dwelling unit must install a carbon monoxide alarm in a central
6 location outside of each sleeping area within a dwelling
7 containing a fuel burning appliance.

8 (2) A carbon monoxide alarm must:

9 (A) comply with Underwriters Laboratories standard 2034; and

10 (B) be installed and maintained under NFPA 720 and the
11 manufacturer's instructions.

12 (b) Equipment.

13 (1) Single station carbon monoxide alarms.

14 (A) A single station carbon monoxide alarm must be battery
15 operated or must receive its primary power from the
16 building wiring system.

17 (B) A plug-in device may satisfy this requirement if it is
18 securely fastened to the structure and installed as directed
19 by the manufacturer's installation instructions.

20 (C) A hard wired or plug-in carbon monoxide alarm must be
21 equipped with battery back-up.

22 (2) Combination smoke detector/carbon monoxide alarms.

23 (A) A carbon monoxide alarm may be combined with a smoke
24 detector if the device complies with this Section, Section
25 22-96, and applicable State law.

26 (B) A combination smoke detector/carbon monoxide alarm
27 must receive its primary power from the building wiring

28 when that wiring is served from a commercial source, and
29 when primary power is interrupted, must receive power
30 from a battery.

31 (C) A combination smoke detector/carbon monoxide alarm
32 must have permanent wiring. The only disconnecting
33 switch allowed is that which is required for over-current
34 protection. Smoke alarm features of a combination smoke
35 detector/carbon monoxide alarm must be interconnected.

36 (c) Exceptions. A dwelling unit that does not itself contain a fuel-burning
37 appliance or have an attached garage, but is located in a building with a
38 fuel-burning appliance or an attached garage, does not need to be
39 equipped with a carbon monoxide alarm if:

40 (1) the sleeping unit or dwelling unit is located more than one story
41 above or below any story which contains a fuel-burning
42 appliance or attached garage;

43 (2) the sleeping unit or dwelling unit is not connected by ductwork or
44 ventilation shafts to any room containing a fuel-burning
45 appliance or to an attached garage; and

46 (3) the building is equipped with a common area carbon monoxide
47 alarm system, which includes carbon monoxide detectors and
48 audible notification appliances, installed and maintained in a
49 manner that satisfies this Section and NFPA 720.

50 (d) Orders to install; penalty.

51 (1) If the State Fire Marshal or local investigating authority finds that
52 a dwelling unit does not have a carbon monoxide detector as
53 required under this Section, the State Fire Marshal or local

54 investigating authority must order the owner to install a carbon
55 monoxide alarm within 15 days of the date of the order.

56 (2) Notwithstanding Section 22-22, a violation of this Section is a
57 Class C violation.

58 **Sec. 2. Effective Date.**

59 Section 22-99, as added by Section 1 of this Act, takes effect on July 1, 2019.

60 *Approved:*

61

Hans Riemer, President, County Council Date

62 *Approved:*

63

Isiah Leggett, County Executive Date

64 *This is a correct copy of Council action.*

65

Megan Davey Limarzi, Esq., Clerk of the Council Date

LEGISLATIVE REQUEST REPORT

Bill 23-18

Fire Safety – Carbon Monoxide Alarm

DESCRIPTION: Bill 23-18 would require the owners of certain dwelling units to install and maintain a carbon monoxide alarm.

PROBLEM: Carbon monoxide gas is a poisonous gas. Exposure to more than 1,000 parts per million of the gas for just a few hours can cause death.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: To ensure that certain homes have a carbon monoxide alarm.

COORDINATION: Fire and Rescue Services

FISCAL IMPACT: To be requested.

ECONOMIC IMPACT: To be requested.

EVALUATION: To be requested.

EXPERIENCE ELSEWHERE: To be researched.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION: Amanda Mihill, Legislative Attorney, 240-777-7815

APPLICATION WITHIN MUNICIPALITIES: To be researched.

PENALTIES: Class C violation