

HOUSE BILL 408

C5

0lr0714

By: **Delegates Charkoudian, Moon, and Wilkins**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2020

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Utilities – Gas Service Regulator Safety**
3 **(Flower Branch Act)**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring that any gas service newly installed at an occupied structure
5 may have a gas service regulator installed only outside the structure; requiring an
6 existing interior gas service regulator to be relocated outside whenever a gas service
7 line, meter, or regulator is replaced; requiring an existing interior gas service
8 regulator servicing a multifamily structure to be relocated outside within a certain
9 time period; requiring certain gas service regulators to be enclosed in a certain
10 manner under certain circumstances; defining certain terms; and generally relating
11 to gas service and regulator safety.

12 BY adding to
13 Article – Public Utilities
14 Section 7–311
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
18 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article – Public Utilities**

20 **7–311.**

21 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
22 **INDICATED.**

23 **(2) “GAS SERVICE REGULATOR” MEANS AN INSTRUMENT THAT:**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(I) IS INSTALLED TO A METER INLET TO CONTROL THE GAS PRESSURE BEING INTRODUCED INTO A STRUCTURE; AND

(II) INCLUDES A RELIEF VALVE TO VENT EXCESS GAS TO THE OUTSIDE ATMOSPHERE IF THE PRESSURE OF THE REGULATED GAS EXCEEDS A SPECIFIED PRESSURE.

(3) "MULTIFAMILY RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURE" MEANS A BUILDING CONTAINING TWO OR MORE DWELLING UNITS, INCLUDING:

(I) AN APARTMENT HOUSE;

(II) A BOARDING HOUSE;

(III) A CONVENT;

(IV) A DORMITORY;

(V) A FRATERNITY OR SORORITY HOUSE;

(VI) A HOTEL OR MOTEL;

(VII) A MONASTERY;

(VIII) A VACATION TIME-SHARE PROPERTY;

(IX) A CONDOMINIUM, AS DEFINED IN § 11-101 OF THE REAL PROPERTY ARTICLE; AND

(X) A COOPERATIVE PROJECT, AS DEFINED IN § 5-6B-01 OF THE CORPORATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS ARTICLE.

(B) (1) WHENEVER GAS SERVICE IS NEWLY INSTALLED AT AN OCCUPIED STRUCTURE, A GAS SERVICE REGULATOR MAY BE INSTALLED ONLY OUTSIDE THE STRUCTURE.

(2) (I) SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, ANY EXISTING GAS SERVICE REGULATOR THAT IS INSTALLED IN THE INTERIOR OF AN OCCUPIED STRUCTURE SHALL BE RELOCATED TO THE OUTSIDE OF THE STRUCTURE WHENEVER THE GAS SERVICE LINE, METER, OR REGULATOR IS REPLACED.

(II) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2025, ANY EXISTING INTERIOR GAS SERVICE REGULATOR THAT SERVICES A MULTIFAMILY RESIDENTIAL

1 STRUCTURE SHALL BE RELOCATED TO THE OUTSIDE OF THE STRUCTURE.

2 (c) (1) A GAS SERVICE REGULATOR SHALL BE INSTALLED AWAY FROM
3 ROADS, DRIVEWAYS, PARKING AREAS, OR OTHER LOCATIONS EXPOSED TO
4 VEHICULAR TRAFFIC OR OTHER EXTERNAL FORCES THAT MAY DAMAGE THE GAS
5 SERVICE REGULATOR.

6 (2) IF IT IS IMPRACTICAL TO INSTALL A GAS SERVICE REGULATOR IN
7 ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, GUARDS SHALL BE
8 INSTALLED TO PROTECT THE GAS SERVICE REGULATOR FROM EXTERNAL FORCES
9 THAT MAY DAMAGE THE GAS SERVICE REGULATOR.

10 (3) GUARDS MAY CONSIST OF POSTS, BOLLARDS, RAILINGS, OR ANY
11 OTHER SAFETY STRUCTURE THAT WILL PREVENT DAMAGE TO THE GAS SERVICE
12 REGULATOR.

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
14 October 1, 2020.