

of a building or facility that violates the Maryland Building Code for the Handicapped or to seek other appropriate relief from the violation.

(iv) Notwithstanding any other provision of this paragraph, the Secretary may not seek any injunction under subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph until 5 working days after the Secretary has sought to seek a resolution through mediation and conciliation under subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph.

(4) The Attorney General is authorized to prosecute all civil cases arising under this section which are referred to the Attorney General by the Secretary.

(b) (1) Enforcement of the code shall be the responsibility of local jurisdictions or any other public agencies having authority over buildings or facilities.

(2) The Department [of Economic and Community Development] shall decide questions of interpretation of the code and authorize any waivers or exemptions under the code.

(c) (1) Any person who willfully violates any provision of the Maryland Building Code for the Handicapped adopted under subsection (a) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction for each violation is subject to a fine not exceeding \$500 for each day that the violation exists or imprisonment not exceeding 3 months, or both.

(2) Any penalty ordered under paragraph (1) of this subsection is in addition to and is not a substitute for any other penalty ordered under a federal, State, or local law.

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(a) (1) Each local political subdivision shall adopt, by regulation, a local housing code that sets minimum property maintenance standards for housing in the subdivision.

(2) The Secretary [of Economic and Community Development] shall adopt, by regulation, a minimum livability code that:

(i) Sets minimum property standards for housing in the State; and

(ii) Allows for exceptions and variations between subdivisions to reflect geographic differences or when the Secretary determines that unique local conditions justify variations or exceptions recommended by local subdivisions.

(3) The livability code shall include minimum standards for: