

The [Department of Public Safety](#) (DPS) is pleased to announce that it has received approval pursuant to [Executive Order 562](#) to convene public hearings to elicit testimony on a proposed new, Ninth Edition of the State Building Code (780 CMR). The new code will be based on modified versions of the following 2015 codes as published by the International Code Council (ICC).

- The International Building Code (IBC);
- International Residential Code (IRC);
- International Existing Building Code (IEBC);
- International Mechanical Code (IMC);
- International Swimming Pool and Spa Code (ISPSC); and
- Portions of The International Fire Code (IFC).

The [Board of Building Regulations and Standards](#) (BBRS) anticipates holding two (2) public hearings on the Ninth Edition Code in order to accommodate interested parties. Hearings are scheduled for:

- **March 28, 2017** @ Springfield Campus [Department of Fire Services](#) (DFS)
100 Grochmal Avenue, Springfield beginning @ 10:00 a.m.

During the hearings, members of BBRS will allow testimony on any portion of the referenced codes and/or amendments. However, due to the number of codes and amendments involved, the chair does reserve the right to limit testimony time on any given topic. Interested parties may also submit written comment on code contents up until the close of business on April 10, 2017. Written comments may be forwarded to Robert.Anderson@state.ma.us. Please take time to view the [2015 international codes](#) and proposed Massachusetts [amendments](#) that are posted on the [DPS website](#).

Once the comment period closes on April 10th, the following schedule is anticipated.

- **April 11th @ 1 p.m.** - BBRS members will convene a regular public meeting at the DPS District Office @ 50 Maple Street in Milford. Among other things, members will begin to review comments received before, during and after the public hearing dates.
- **May 16th @ 1 p.m.** - BBRS members will convene a regular public meeting at the DPS main office @ One Ashburton Place, Cafeteria Conference Room to, among other things, further review comments received on the proposed new code and approve final contents.

Once final contents is approved, the Ninth Edition Code will be filed with the Secretary of State with **an expected effective date on or about July 1, 2017.** Further, BBRS members have voted to approve a concurrency period beginning on the effective date of the new code and ending on January 1, 2018 wherein a code user may choose to design and construct projects in conformance to either the Eighth or Ninth Edition of the Code, without mixing

provisions. Permit applications for use of the Eighth Edition Code would need to be filed with the appropriate building department on or before January 1, 2018.

On January 2, 2018, and thereafter, projects will be expected to comply with the Ninth Edition Code. Permit applicants desiring to use the Eighth Edition of the code may need to exercise [appeal options](#) if they are not able to file a permit application before expiration of the concurrency period.

Also, as a reminder, BBRS members have already approved a new energy code based on the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). The new energy code came into full force and effect on January 2, 2017. Please see the [DPS website](#) for additional information about new energy code provisions.

Thank you for your interest in the code development process. We hope to see you at one of the hearings.