

Code Change Fact Sheet

This fact sheet must be attached to any ordinance in Legistar that is proposing to amend Columbus City Codes. It should also be circulated among Councilmember offices prior to submitting an ordinance in Legistar.

It is also a standard practice that Council will not consider any code changes that have not been previously reviewed and approved by the City Attorney's office. Drafters should ensure that the City Attorney's office has approved a final version of a proposed code change prior to circulating this fact sheet to Councilmember offices.

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Department: City Council

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Columbus City Code Title Being Amended/Created/Repealed:

Title 45 – Housing Code

What is the overall purpose of this code change? *Summarize the general themes of the code change(s) and the need for these changes. Please utilize language and descriptors that would be easily understandable by the general public.*

This code change is intended introduce safety measures for certain ponds on multi-unit residential properties, such as a the ability to declare them to be nuisances for dangerous conditions, as well as mandating signage, life-saving equipment, and notice to residents.

Why is this code change needed? *Examples: Correcting a drafting error; bringing code into alignment with changes to state law. For other policy changes, it may be necessary to provide a much more in-depth rationale in the section.*



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This code change will make these potentially dangerous ponds safer and raise public awareness of such ponds to prevent future child drownings.

What would be the impact of not adopting this code change?

There have been dozens of drownings in open water in the past decade in Central Ohio, many in retention and aesthetic ponds on multi-family properties. Not adopting the Code would keep potential unsafe conditions in place on these properties.

Are there any operating or capital budget cost/savings implications for this code change?

These may be direct or indirect, and please also note any long-term impact.

n/a

Describe the community engagement process regarding this code change. What residents, impacted parties, and constituents may be affected? Have they been engaged, and how so? How was their feedback incorporated (or not incorporated) into this code change?

There was outreach to all applicable City departments, as well as external stakeholders to gather input. Drafts of the potential Code went through several versions as different perspectives were incorporated into the final language.

Will this code change take effect with the ordinance, or is there a delayed effective date?

With the effective date of the ordinance, with the exception of the mandate for physical installations on property, for which there is a delayed effective date until July 1, 2025.



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