



Shaping Tomorrow's  
Built Environment Today

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2021-2022 ASHRAE President

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January 28, 2022

The Honorable Kumar Barve, Chair  
The Honorable Dana Stein, Vice Chair  
Maryland House of Delegates  
House Environment & Transportation Committee  
Room 251 House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Letter Sent Via Email to:** [kumar.barve@house.state.md.us](mailto:kumar.barve@house.state.md.us)

RE: House Bill 248

Dear Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and Committee Members:

ASHRAE, founded in 1894, is a global society advancing human well-being through sustainable technology for the built environment. The Society and its more than 50,000 members, including over 1,100 in Maryland, focus on building systems, energy efficiency, indoor air quality, refrigeration and sustainability. Through research, standards writing, publishing, certification and continuing education, ASHRAE shapes tomorrow's built environment today.

We are writing to you regarding House Bill 248, "*Legionnaires' Disease Prevention Act.*" We appreciate the inclusion of ASHRAE's Standard 188-2018, *Legionellosis: Risk Management for Building Water Systems*, in the proposed requirements for water management plans in public buildings. Managing water systems to minimize the risk of contamination from Legionella is essential.

We also recommend the use of ASHRAE Guideline 12-2020, *Managing the Risk of Legionellosis Associated with Building Water Systems*, which provides detailed guidance for water management program teams to develop the necessary elements of an effective water management plan. Proper management and maintenance of building water systems can be a particularly important aspect of reopening buildings during the COVID-19 pandemic, which are sometimes overlooked.

ASHRAE formed an Epidemic Task Force in 2020 to address the COVID-19 pandemic in building-related matters and has developed guidance on building reopening related to ventilation, filtration, air cleaning, and water systems for several building types and operational conditions.

Water systems are specifically included in ASHRAE's guidance to minimize the risk of legionellosis associated with water systems after building reopening. Additional guidance, answers to frequently asked questions, and other resources on the coronavirus and the built environment can be found at [www.ashrae.org/covid19](http://www.ashrae.org/covid19).

Again, we appreciate the inclusion of ASHRAE Standard 188-2018 in this bill and hope your committee will consider further improving the bill by incorporating the additional ASHRAE guidance on water systems as described above. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff email [GovAffairs@ashrae.org](mailto:GovAffairs@ashrae.org). Thank you for your consideration of this important matter and for working to ensure the health and well-being of building occupants.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mick Schwedler".

Michael CA (Mick) Schwedler, P.E., Fellow ASHRAE, LEED AP  
2021-22 ASHRAE President

cc: The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky  
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee