

**REPORT  
OF THE  
STATE BOARD OF HOUSING  
TO  
THE GOVERNOR  
AND  
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**



**House Document No. 7**

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
Department of Purchases and Supply  
Richmond

1975



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Office of Housing  
E. A. Ragland  
Executive Director

October 31, 1974

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TO: The Honorable Mills E. Godwin  
Governor of Virginia

and

The General Assembly of Virginia

The report contained herein is pursuant to House Joint Resolution No. 131 which was passed by the 1974 session of the General Assembly. This report comprises the response of the State Board of Housing to the directive that an investigation be conducted on the feasibility of promulgating insulation standards for the Uniform Statewide Building Code.

At the direction of the  
State Board of Housing

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "E. A. Ragland".

E. A. Ragland  
Executive Director  
Office of Housing

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## **HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 131**

Whereas, our nation is presently experiencing a shortage of all forms of energy; and

Whereas, it is in the best interests of the Commonwealth to encourage its citizens to conserve energy; and

Whereas, the heating and cooling of structures requires large amounts of energy; and

Whereas, those persons building structures in the Commonwealth that are intended to be heated or cooled should be encouraged to design them so as to best minimize heating and cooling loss; and

Whereas, the proper insulation of structures is an exceptionally effective and relatively inexpensive means of conserving heating and cooling; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, that the State Board of Housing is directed to promulgate insulation standards for structures that are heated or cooled, for possible inclusion in any local building codes or a Uniform Statewide Building Code. Such standards shall be consistent with the recommendations of the Governor's Task Force on Energy Conservation. The State Board of Housing shall submit its report to the Governor and the General Assembly not later than November one, nineteen hundred seventy-four.

In compliance with House Joint Resolution No. 131, the State Board of Housing is in the process of investigating the feasibility of promulgating insulation and other energy conserving standards. The Board is reviewing the Design and Evaluation Criteria for Energy Conservation in New Buildings issued by the National Bureau of Standards. These materials are to be used as a basis for the development of a national standard to be applied to new construction and not as a document for regulatory purposes. Because of extensive research being done at the national level and because of the complex and technical nature of the undertaking, the State Board of Housing has chosen to work with the National Conference of States on Building Codes and Standards in developing a national standard before promulgating standards for the State of Virginia. Hopefully, this work will be completed during 1975. Moreover, since the Uniform Statewide Building Code is not retroactive and because the majority of buildings in use for the near future do not come under the Code, the Board is of the opinion that the Commonwealth can encourage improvement in existing buildings by promoting a flow of information to the public, by educating them on the necessity of conserving energy and of the increased savings from energy conserving measures. Although, there is keen public awareness of increased fuel costs, the benefits of insulation are less well known.

Therefore, it would be advisable for one of the state agencies or state universities to develop an information program to be funded by the General Assembly geared towards educating the public to the savings that can be achieved through proper insulation and all other energy saving improvements in existing buildings.