



**Written Testimony of Christopher Hallock**  
**Deputy Secretary, Bureau of Safety and Labor-Management Relations**  
**Department of Labor & Industry**

Chairwoman Muth and members of the Democratic Policy Committee, on behalf of the Department of Labor and Industry, I hereby offer written comments regarding the Department's role in the implementation and enforcement of the Pennsylvania Construction Code Act (Act 45 of 1999) and the Uniform Construction Code (UCC).

The Pennsylvania Construction Code Act (PCCA) establishes the basic requirements for the Uniform Construction Code and imposes powers and duties on municipalities and the Department of Labor and Industry. The UCC is Pennsylvania's statewide building code, which sets forth codes and standards of building projects in Pennsylvania. Neither the PCCA nor UCC address any form of contractor licensing. Rather, it is only the certification of construction code officials that are noted.

The law gives municipalities the option to elect to administer and enforce the UCC locally, using their own employees or through certified third-party agencies that they retain. In these municipalities, the Department conducts Accessibility Audits every five years and responds to complaints involving local code official's UCC enforcement. If a municipality chooses to "opt-out" of self-enforcement, the Department is responsible for code enforcement in that locality, but that enforcement is limited to commercial codes.

The PCCA delineates the jurisdictional boundaries for residential buildings, entrusting plan review and inspection responsibilities to local municipalities and third-party inspection agencies. Whether municipalities opt-in or opt-out of enforcing the PCCA, they retain authority over residential building oversight, including contractor licensing requirements within their jurisdictions.

Section 107 of the PCCA establishes the Uniform Construction Code Review and Advisory Council (UCC RAC). This council is entrusted with the responsibility of reviewing the triennial building codes published by the International Code Council (ICC), notably the International Residential Code (IRC). This review process, conducted through technical advisory committees (TACs), ensures that Pennsylvania's building regulations remain up-to-date and aligned with industry best practices. Recommendations stemming from these reviews are made publicly available on the Department's website for stakeholder input to ensure transparency. The UCC Review and Advisory Council then presents a comprehensive report to the Secretary of Labor and Industry for consideration. Furthermore, the law mandates that the Department promulgate regulations to adopt the council's decisions contained in the report without change.

In conclusion, the PCCA establishes a framework for building code regulation and enforcement in Pennsylvania across residential and commercial construction sectors. However, the Department of Labor and Industry's enforcement responsibilities are specific to commercial construction in municipalities that have chosen to opt-out of self-enforcement. Thank you for the opportunity to provide remarks on this important topic.