

**To:** Planning, Building, Zoning and Environment Committee

**Date:** April 29, 2026

**Subject:** Proposed adoption of the 2024 International Code Council (ICC) International Existing Building Code and Amendments to the 2024 ICC International Building Code, 2024 ICC international Residential Code, and 2023 NFPA National Electrical Code

The Planning, Building and Development Department periodically updates its building codes in order to both maintain consistency with construction-related best practices, alignment with the International Code Council's updates, and compliance with applicable State and Federal regulations. Following is a summary of a statutorily required update drafted for Lake County Board review and adoption.

The State of Illinois effectuated a law in January 2025 that mandated minimum building code standards statewide. All municipalities and counties now must enforce minimum construction standards based on the International Code Council (ICC) standards. To ensure Lake County remains compliant with statutory requirements, adoption of the 2024 ICC International Existing Building Code is necessary.

Additionally, staff are proposing minor non-substantive amendments to the 2024 ICC International Building Code, the 2024 ICC International Residential Code, and the 2023 NFPA 70 National Electrical Code that reflect language updates, clarifications and industry best practices, as summarized below.

**2024 ICC International Building Code:**

- Housekeeping amendment to provide clarification of a reference to the 2024 ICC International Existing Building Code.

**2024 ICC International Residential Code:**

- Rewrite current amendment Section R105.2 (page 29) Item #2 to stipulate that fences under six feet in height may be approved via the Department's registration process and that fences exceeding six feet in height require a permit. (This is a housekeeping amendment to align with existing Department practices).

**2023 NFPA 70 National Electrical Code:**

- Amendments to the National Electrical Code are proposed to provide clarification, remove vague language, and modernize and align requirements with industry best practices, as follows:
  - Streamline and update nonmetallic-sheathed cable (NM cable) and wiring requirements.
  - Establish clearer and more consistent rules for existing AFCI (arc-fault protection) standards to require accessible installation.
  - Require the removal of unused and/or legacy wiring methods and materials thereby reducing fire hazards, confusion, and potential interference caused by unused electrical materials left in place.
  - Updates to replacement rules and conduit requirements emphasize accessibility and protection from physical damage, aligning installations with higher safety and consistency standards.