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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1575 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY ELLIS AND JAMES, SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND INDUSTRY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

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AN ACT

1 Amending the act of November 10, 1999 (P.L.491, No.45), entitled  
2 "An act establishing a uniform construction code; imposing  
3 powers and duties on municipalities and the Department of  
4 Labor and Industry; providing for enforcement; imposing  
5 penalties; and making repeals," in exemptions, applicability  
6 and penalties, further providing for exemptions.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Section 901(h) of the act of November 10, 1999  
10 (P.L.491, No.45), known as the Pennsylvania Construction Code  
11 Act, added April 25, 2011 (P.L.1, No.1), is amended to read:

12 Section 901. Exemptions.

13 \* \* \*

14 (h) Fire protection of floors.--

15 (1) Except as set forth in paragraph (2), a floor  
16 assembly not required in the International Residential Code,  
17 or its successor building code, to be fire-resistance rated  
18 shall be provided with a 1/2-inch gypsum wallboard membrane,  
19 5/8-inch wood structural panel membrane, or equivalent, on  
20 the underside of the floor framing member.

1           (2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to any of the  
2 following:

3           (i) A floor assembly located directly over a space  
4 protected by an automatic sprinkler system in accordance  
5 with section P2904, NFPA13D or other equivalent sprinkler  
6 system approved by a municipal code official.

7           (ii) A floor assembly located directly over a crawl  
8 space not intended for storage or fuel-fired appliances.

9           (iii) A portion of a floor assembly which complies  
10 with all of the following:

11           (A) The aggregate area of the unprotected  
12 portions shall not exceed 80 square feet per story.

13           (B) Fire blocking in accordance with section  
14 R302.11.1 shall be installed along the perimeter of  
15 the unprotected portion to separate the unprotected  
16 portion from the remainder of the floor assembly.

17           [(iv) A wood floor assembly using dimension lumber  
18 or structural composite lumber equal to or greater than  
19 two-inch by ten-inch nominal dimension or a floor  
20 assembly approved by a municipal code official  
21 demonstrating equivalent fire performance.]

22 \* \* \*

23 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.