



## **ABC SUPPORTS HOUSE BILL 349**

### ***Bill Summary***

House Bill 349 amends the Pennsylvania Construction Code Act (Act 45 of 1999) to require municipalities that self-enforce the Uniform Construction Code through contractual agreements with third-party agencies to make available additional opportunities to applicants. The current requirement is one or more agencies.

### ***ABC Position***

**ABC supports House Bill 349 for the reasons listed below. We ask that you vote in support of the legislation.**

- **Increases efficiency in the inspection process.** While municipalities maintain the right to supplement in-house code inspection staff with outside third-party code inspection agencies, they may also wholly contract with third-party agencies to provide inspection options to applicants. Providing these options to applicants allows for improved, ongoing relationships between inspectors and potential permittees, saving time and money. These factors would not only decrease construction schedules, but also save taxpayer dollars by improving the inspection process.
- **Provides recourse for potential violations of the inspection process.** HB 349 would require the Department of Labor & Industry to develop and maintain a system by which applicants could file timely complaints related to code inspection agencies and individuals. Currently, the Department maintains no such opportunity, leaving applicants facing abuse little recourse.