



**Testimony on Intro. 1321
New York City Council, Committee on Housing and Buildings
November 20, 2025**

The American Council of Engineering Companies of New York (ACEC New York) would like to thank Chair Sanchez and the members of the Committee on Housing and Buildings for your efforts over the years to update New York City's Building Codes. **We submit this testimony today on behalf of our association in strong support of Intro. 1321, which proposes to enact the Existing Building Code (EBC) and to repeal the 1968 building code. We recommend this bill's swift passage and enactment into law.**

Founded in New York City in 1921, ACEC New York is celebrating 104 years of engagement. We have approximately 300 engineering and affiliate firms in New York. Our members plan and design the structural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, civil, environmental, fire protection and technology systems for buildings across New York.

An EBC in New York City has been long discussed by the design industry and the New York City Department of Buildings (DOB). The DOB has been working toward enacting an EBC since development of the 2008 Construction Codes.

The EBC will be the new framework for governing alterations and maintenance of existing buildings in New York City. The current regulatory scheme in the city has shortcomings in its approach to existing buildings. It includes multiple layers of requirements, some of which commonly require submission and review of variance requests. For this reason, the status quo results in longer approval and permitting processes. For project teams, establishing the EBC is an important change that will reshape how work in existing buildings is planned, approved, and completed.

The EBC will mean clearer rules for alterations and maintenance of buildings. It will establish a consistent code regime for existing buildings in alignment with modern Construction Codes. The EBC will simplify the regulatory structure, bridge the gap between the current and past codes, and remove barriers to the rehabilitation of buildings.

A great deal of time, knowledge and expertise was contributed to the development of this EBC by engineering industry leaders and experts across the safety, fire, mechanical, structural, and other disciplines. Through the code development process, several ACEC New York members, DOB and other stakeholders engaged in thoughtful collaboration. We thank DOB for this level of engagement, and for continually improving the process for updating the code.

The end result of this long effort is a consensus document embodied by Intro. 1321, which is before your Committee today. **ACEC New York is pleased to strongly support Intro. 1321, and we urge your Committee and the City Council to pass the bill.**

Going forward, ACEC New York members will continue to serve as a resource and engage with the DOB and the City Council to ensure the City's Codes reflect on-the-ground issues encountered by engineers, architects and builders every day, as well as best practices for safety and sustainability.