

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WORCESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND
BILL 25-02

BY: Commissioners Abbott, Bertino, Elder, Fiori, Mitrecic, and Purnell

INTRODUCED: April 1, 2025

A legislative bill for the purpose of amending Subtitle IV of the County Government Article to further clarify the prohibition of camping on County and other property and to prohibit the storage of private property on such property.

- I. **Be It Enacted by the County Commissioners of Worcester County, Maryland,** that Subtitle IV (County Real and Personal Property and County Buildings) of the County Government Article of the Code of Public Local Laws of Worcester County, Maryland is amended as follows:

§ CG 4-404 Regulations regarding the use of County-owned and other property.

- (a) Definitions. For the purposes of this Subtitle, the following definitions shall apply:

Camp: to use an area for living accommodation purposes, including pitching, erecting, or occupying an encampment, creating outdoor sheltering, or using camp paraphernalia to facilitate outdoor sheltering or for living accommodation purposes or for remaining outdoors overnight.

Camp paraphernalia: personal property used to facilitate occupancy of an area and includes personal property typically associated with camping such as tarps, cots, beds, sleeping bags, hammocks, bedding, camp stoves, cooking equipment, buckets, and similar equipment, luggage, clothing, bicycles, mattresses, couches, dressers, or other furniture.

- (b) Prohibited acts.

- (1) Unless otherwise authorized by written resolution of the County Commissioners, it is prohibited to inhabit, camp on, ~~tent on,~~ or sleep on ~~or inhabit:~~

A. ~~any~~ roadside of ~~any~~ County road ~~or along any County roadside;~~

B. ~~within the~~any right-of-way of ~~the~~ a County road;

C. ~~or in~~ any County ~~recreational~~ park ~~or in;~~

D. ~~on or adjacent to~~ any County landing ~~or boat ramp;~~ ~~or~~

E. any other County-owned property;

F. any school, college, university, or other education institution; or unless specifically authorized by law or resolution of the County Commissioners.

H. any bus stop or transportation facility.

(2) It is prohibited to dock, moor, tie-up, or anchor any boat, vessel, or watercraft at any County-owned boat landing or boat ramp, except for loading and unloading purposes and except in cases of bona fide emergencies on a temporary basis (not to exceed 48 hours), unless specifically authorized in writing by law or resolution of the County Commissioners. "Temporary," for the purposes hereof, shall mean not to exceed forty-eight hours.

(3) It is prohibited to enter upon or into any County-owned land or facility at any time when the land or facility is closed to the general public unless specifically authorized by written resolution of the County Commissioners.

(4) Storage or use of any personal property or camp paraphernalia within the areas listed in (b)(1) above is prohibited.

A. Personal property or camp paraphernalia stored or used in violation of this Subtitle must be removed within 24 hours of duly-authorized notice being made by an agent of the county.

B. Personal property or camp paraphernalia not removed within 24 hours of notice being made may be removed and disposed of by the County Commissioners or other authorized agents at the owner's expense.

C. Personal property or camp paraphernalia that poses an immediate threat to the health or safety of the public may be immediately removed and disposed of by the County Commissioners or other authorized agents at the owner's expense without notice being made.

(cb) Interference with County recreational activities. It is prohibited for any person to interfere with, disrupt, or disturb any recreational activity duly authorized in writing by the Worcester County Recreation Board for the County Commissioners, whether such interference, disruption or disturbance is caused by the action of the individual, inaction of the individual or by words, gestures or other means.

(~~de~~) Rules and regulations regarding County-owned property. The County Commissioners may, by written resolution, adopt additional rules, regulations, hours of operation, limitation of uses, or other standards with regard to the use of County-owned property. ~~Such rules or regulations may not contravene the purposes of this section but shall be in addition to the requirements of this section.~~

(~~ed~~) Violations and Penalties.

(1) Violation: Any person who violates the provisions of this Subtitle or any related rules or regulations adopted by the County Commissioners ~~pursuant hereto~~ shall be guilty of a ~~civil infraction~~ misdemeanor. Each day a violation occurs will be considered a separate offense.

(2) Penalty: Any person who violates this Subtitle shall, upon conviction, be fined not more than \$1000, imprisoned for not more than thirty days, or both.

II. **Be It Further Enacted by the County Commissioners of Worcester County, Maryland** that this Bill will take effect 45 days from the date of its passage.

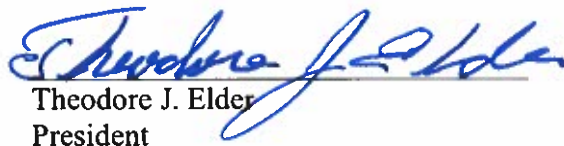
III. PASSED this 20th day of May 2025.

Attest:

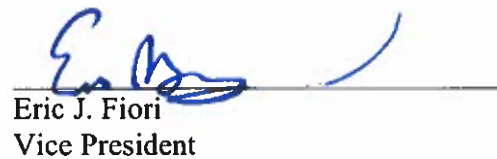


Weston S. Young
Chief Administrative Officer

Worcester County Commissioners




Theodore J. Elder
President



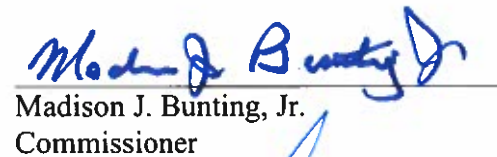
Eric J. Fiori
Vice President



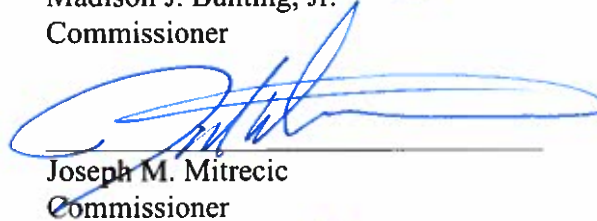
Caryn G. Abbott
Commissioner



Anthony W. Bertino, Jr.
Commissioner



Madison J. Bunting, Jr.
Commissioner



Joseph M. Mitrećić
Commissioner



Diana Purnell
Commissioner