

NOTICE OF PASSAGE OF BILL 21-7
WORCESTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Take Notice that Bill 21-7 (Zoning – Agritourism) was passed by Commissioners Elder, Mitrecic, Nordstrom and Purnell on August 17, 2021.

A fair summary of the bill is as follows:

§ ZS 1-103(b). (Repeals the definition for “agritainment facility” in the Zoning and Subdivision Control Article.)

§ ZS 1-103(b). (Adds the definition for “agricultural alcohol production” in the Zoning and Subdivision Control Article to describe an activity that is carried out by a license holder as defined in Section § 1-101 of the Annotated Code of the State of Maryland, Alcoholic Beverage Article, as may be amended from time to time, which occurs on a farm which is zoned as either A-1 or A-2 Agricultural District, and is related to the manufacture, packaging, storage, distribution, promotion, sale or tasting of alcoholic beverages that use any portion of ingredients produced on the farm.)

§ ZS 1-103(b). (Adds the definition for “agritourism” in the Zoning and Subdivision Control Article to describe farm enterprise wherein activities are conducted on a working farm and offered to the public for the purpose of recreation, education, or active involvement in the farm operation and for promotion of farm products and traditional rural living. These activities must be related to agriculture, natural resources or traditional rural living and be incidental to the primary operation of the site as a farm. The term includes but is not limited to farm tours; pumpkin hunts; hay rides; crop mazes; hay tunnels; petting, feeding and viewing of farm animals; horse or pony rides; farm equipment rides; festivals; informational displays or activities; classes or demonstrations related to agricultural products or skills; and agricultural alcohol production including packaging, storage, distribution, tastings and sales.)

§ ZS 1-201(c)(9). (Repeals the special exception use for agritainment facilities in the A-1 Agricultural District and replaces it with an agritourism facility as a special exception use; establishes a maximum use area of thirty percent of the gross acreage of a lot or parcel for agritourism uses and structures; establishes general lot requirements; allows a maximum of four festivals per year as an event conducted at an agritourism facility for up to three consecutive days for the purpose of promoting products grown on the farm or farm- related education or recreation; sets restrictions on hours of outdoor amplified entertainment or music; and prohibits overnight events.)

§ ZS 1-201(c)(10). (Repeals the special exception use for wineries in the A-1 Agricultural District.)

§ ZS 1-202(c)(9). (Repeals the special exception use for agritainment facilities in the A-2 Agricultural District and replaces it with an agritourism facility as a special exception use; establishes a maximum use area of thirty percent of the gross acreage of a lot or parcel for agritourism uses and structures; establishes general lot requirements; allows a maximum of four festivals per year as an event conducted at an agritourism facility for up to three consecutive days for the purpose of promoting products grown on the farm or farm- related education or recreation; sets restrictions on hours of outdoor amplified entertainment or music; and prohibits overnight events.)

§ ZS 1-202(c)(10). (Repeals the special exception use for wineries in the A-2 Agricultural District.)

§ ZS 1-320(a). (Retitles the off-street parking requirements for “agritainment and winery facilities” to “agritourism facilities”.)

This bill becomes effective forty-five (45) days from the date of its passage.

This is only a fair summary of the bill. A full copy of the bill is posted on the Legislative Bulletin Board in the main hall of the Worcester County Government Center outside Room 1103, is available for public inspection in Room 1103 of the Worcester County Government Center and is available on the County Website at www.co.worcester.md.us.

THE WORCESTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS