

NOTICE OF PASSAGE OF BILL 15-9
WORCESTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Take Notice that Bill 15-9 (Natural Resources - Abolishment of Shoreline Commission) was passed by the County Commissioners on September 15, 2015.

A fair summary of the bill is as follows:

§ NR 2-102. Construction along shorelines. (Repeals and reenacts this section for the purpose of abolishing the Worcester County Shoreline Commission in recognition that the review and licensing responsibilities have been assumed by the department designated by the County Commissioners for the issuance of permits under this section; adds definitions of “Approval Authority”, “COMAR”, “Mean High Water Line (MHWL)” and “Waterfront Structures”, amends the definition of “Routine Maintenance and Repair”, and removes the definition of “Shoreline Commission”; removes the subsection referencing creation of the Shoreline Commission; amends the subsection regarding required permits to add provisions for a shoreline construction permit; provides that the public notification and public hearing procedures shall be satisfied by the Maryland Department of the Environment, however the department will continue to distribute written notification letters to adjoining property owners with a minimum 15-days notice to provide written comment prior to action by the department; establishes application procedures for minor construction and major construction; establishes additional restrictions for waterfront structures previously regulated by the Zoning and Subdivision Control Article with respect to extension into water area, shared docks, piers or boathouses, and application of setback lines; establishes considerations by the Department and Approval Authority in reviewing applications; removes the provisions for hearings by the Shoreline Commission; establishes that conditions and stipulations may be required by the Department and Approval Authority in granting permits; provides for appeals of decisions by the Department or Approval Authority to the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) and of decisions by the BZA to Circuit Court; provides that construction standards shall be recommended by the Department for approval by the County Commissioners and authorizes the Approval Authority to waive or modify the standards under certain circumstances; provides that the Department shall be responsible for inspections of all work done on shorelines; provides that violations are considered a civil infraction; and provides for exemptions of the County shoreline standards in municipalities which have adopted their own ordinance provided that their shoreline construction standards are equal to or better than the County standards.)

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 <http://www.co.worcester.md.us/commissioners/legsltn.aspx> .

THE WORCESTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS