

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WORCESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND

BILL 23-07

---

BY: Commissioners Bertino, Bunting, Abbott, Elder, Fiori, Mitrecic, and Purnell  
INTRODUCED: October 3, 2023

---

AN EMERGENCY BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT Concerning

Public Health – Cannabis establishments

For the purpose of amending the Public Health Article to set forth regulations for certain cannabis establishments.

Section 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WORCESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND, that a new § PH 1-110 be enacted to read as follows:

**§ PH 1-110. Cannabis establishments.**

- (a) Definitions. For the purposes of this section, the definitions found in Title 36 of the Annotated Code of the State of Maryland shall apply.
- (b) Dispensaries. The following provisions shall apply to all dispensaries permitted after July 1, 2023:
  - (1) A dispensary shall maintain a minimum separation distance of two-thousand feet from:
    - A. A pre-existing primary or secondary school;
    - B. A licensed childcare center or registered family childcare home under Title 9.5 of the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland;
    - C. A playground, recreation center, library or public park; and
    - D. Another licensed dispensary.
- (c) On-site consumption establishments. On-site consumption establishments shall be prohibited in Worcester County. Furthermore, it shall be prohibited for any establishment to permit the consumption of cannabis or cannabis products on-site.
- (d) Other regulations. In regulating the siting of cannabis establishments, the provisions of this section shall first apply, but when a matter is not specifically regulated by this section, then the other provisions of the Code of Public Local Laws of Worcester County, Maryland shall apply.
- (e) Violations. Any person, licensee, agent, group, firm or corporation who violates the provisions of this Subtitle shall be guilty of a civil infraction.

Section 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WORCESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND, that this Bill, having been declared an Emergency Bill, shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

Attest:

Worcester County Commissioners

---

Weston S. Young  
Chief Administrative Officer

---

Anthony W. Bertino, Jr.  
President

---

Madison J. Bunting, Jr.  
Vice President

---

Caryn G. Abbott  
Commissioner

---

Theodore J. Elder  
Commissioner

---

Eric J. Fiori  
Commissioner

---

Joseph M. Mitrecic  
Commissioner

---

Diana Purnell  
Commissioner