

CHAPTER 113

(House Bill 1085)

AN ACT concerning

Washington County – Regulation of Special Events

FOR the purpose of prohibiting certain persons, corporations, partnerships, associations, and entities from holding certain events without first obtaining a certain special event permit; authorizing the Board of County Commissioners of Washington County to adopt certain regulations by ordinance or resolution concerning certain special event permit applications, processes, fees, penalties, appeal procedures, and exceptions; exempting certain events from the provisions of this Act; defining certain terms; and generally relating to special events in Washington County.

BY adding to

The Public Local Laws of Washington County

Section 10–501 through 10–504 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 5. Special Events”

Article 22 – Public Local Laws of Maryland
(2007 Edition, as amended)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article 22 – Washington County

SUBTITLE 5. SPECIAL EVENTS

10–501.

(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(B) “ATHLETIC EVENT” MEANS:

(1) AN ORGANIZED COMPETITIVE EVENT IN WHICH A GROUP OF PEOPLE COLLECTIVELY ENGAGE IN A SPORT OR FORM OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, INCLUDING RUNNING, JOGGING, WALKING, BICYCLING, OR SKATING ON:

(I) PUBLIC PROPERTY WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF WASHINGTON COUNTY IF THE EXPECTED ATTENDANCE, INCLUDING PARTICIPANTS AND SPECTATORS, IS GREATER THAN 100 PEOPLE; OR

(II) A COUNTY ROAD; OR

(2) A RECREATIONAL EVENT IN WHICH A GROUP OF PEOPLE COLLECTIVELY ENGAGE IN A SPORT OR FORM OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, INCLUDING RUNNING, JOGGING, WALKING, BICYCLING, OR SKATING ON:

(I) PUBLIC PROPERTY WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF WASHINGTON COUNTY IF THE EXPECTED ATTENDANCE, INCLUDING PARTICIPANTS AND SPECTATORS, IS GREATER THAN 100 PEOPLE; OR

(II) A COUNTY ROAD IF THE EXPECTED ATTENDANCE, INCLUDING PARTICIPANTS AND SPECTATORS, IS GREATER THAN 50 PEOPLE.

(C) (1) “ENTERTAINMENT EVENT” MEANS AN EVENT ORGANIZED FOR THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF ENTERTAINING OR AMUSING PEOPLE AND HELD ON PUBLIC OR PRIVATE PROPERTY WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, ~~INCLUDING~~ IF THE EXPECTED ATTENDANCE, INCLUDING PARTICIPANTS AND SPECTATORS, IS GREATER THAN 250 PEOPLE.

(2) “ENTERTAINMENT EVENT” INCLUDES:

(I) PARADES;

(II) BONANZAS;

(III) CARNIVALS;

(IV) FAIRS; OR

(V) CONCERTS.

(D) “EVENT REQUIRING ASSISTANCE” MEANS AN EVENT:

(1) THAT REQUIRES THE CLOSURE OF A ROADWAY OR INTERSECTION IN WASHINGTON COUNTY;

(2) THAT REQUIRES THE REROUTING OF TRAFFIC ON A ROADWAY OR INTERSECTION IN WASHINGTON COUNTY; OR

(3) THAT REQUIRES THE ASSISTANCE OF COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT, TRAFFIC CONTROL, EMERGENCY SERVICES, OR OTHER COUNTY STAFF AT A LEVEL WHICH EXCEEDS NORMAL STAFFING LEVELS.

(E) "SPECIAL EVENT" MEANS AN ATHLETIC EVENT, ENTERTAINMENT EVENT, OR EVENT REQUIRING ASSISTANCE WHETHER HELD FOR PROFIT, NONPROFIT, OR CHARITABLE PURPOSES.

10-502.

SUBJECT TO § 10-504 OF THIS SUBTITLE, AN INDIVIDUAL, CORPORATION, PARTNERSHIP, ASSOCIATION, OR OTHER ENTITY, WHETHER PUBLIC OR PRIVATE, MAY NOT HOLD A SPECIAL EVENT WITHOUT FIRST OBTAINING A SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT.

10-503.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY MAY, BY ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION, ADOPT REGULATIONS CONCERNING:

- (1) SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS;**
- (2) SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT PROCESSES;**
- (3) SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT APPLICATION FEES;**
- (4) CIVIL PENALTIES AND CITATIONS FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS SUBTITLE OR ANY REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY ORDINANCE OR REGULATION BY THE BOARD UNDER THIS SUBTITLE;**
- (5) SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT APPEAL PROCEDURES; AND**
- (6) EVENTS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD TO BE EXCEPTED FROM THE DEFINITION OF SPECIAL EVENT.**

10-504.

THIS SUBTITLE DOES NOT APPLY TO THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF EVENTS:

- (1) UNLESS IT IS AN EVENT REQUIRING ASSISTANCE, AN ATHLETIC EVENT OR ENTERTAINMENT EVENT:**

(I) SPONSORED BY AND HELD ON PROPERTY OWNED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF WASHINGTON COUNTY OR A PRIVATE OR PAROCHIAL SCHOOL;

(II) HELD AT A PRIVATELY OWNED GOLF FACILITY OR OTHER LICENSED RECREATIONAL SITE DURING NORMAL DAILY OPERATIONS IF THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS AND SPECTATORS DOES NOT EXCEED THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE THAT CAN BE SERVED BY THE FACILITIES; OR

(III) HELD INSIDE A PERMANENT AND FULLY ENCLOSED STRUCTURE DESIGNED PRIMARILY FOR THE GATHERING OF PEOPLE, INCLUDING A PLACE OF WORSHIP, PUBLIC AUDITORIUM, THEATER, RECREATION HALL, OR GYMNASIUM, IF THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS AND SPECTATORS DOES NOT EXCEED THE MAXIMUM CAPACITY OF THE STRUCTURE;

(2) UNLESS IT IS AN EVENT REQUIRING ASSISTANCE, AN ATHLETIC EVENT HELD ON PUBLIC PROPERTY AS PART OF THE REGULAR ACTIVITY OF AN ATHLETIC OR RECREATIONAL SPORTS LEAGUE THAT HAS RECEIVED PERMISSION TO USE PUBLIC FACILITIES FROM THE WASHINGTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION; AND

(3) AN ATHLETIC EVENT OR ENTERTAINMENT EVENT SPONSORED AND DIRECTED IN WHOLE BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2008.

Approved by the Governor, April 8, 2008.