HOUSE BILL 331

By: Delegates Boteler and Buckel
Introduced and read first time: January 19, 2022
Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

Committee Report: Favorable
House action: Adopted
Read second time: March 9, 2022

CHAPTER ______

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Local Government – Regulation of Amateur Radio Station Antenna Structures

3 FOR the purpose of establishing certain requirements that apply to a county or municipal
4 ordinance regulating amateur radio station antenna structures; and generally
5 relating to county or municipal regulation of amateur radio station antenna
6 structures.

7 BY adding to
8 Article – Local Government
9 Section 1–1317
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2013 Volume and 2021 Supplement)
12
13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
14 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 Article – Local Government

16 1–1317.

17 (A) IN THIS SECTION, “AMATEUR RADIO” MEANS THE USE OF A RADIO
18 FREQUENCY SPECTRUM FOR PURPOSES OF NONCOMMERCIAL EXCHANGE OF
19 MESSAGES, WIRELESS EXPERIMENTATION, SELF–TRAINING, PRIVATE RECREATION,
20 RADIOSPORT, CONTESTING, OR EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION BY A DULY

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
Underlining indicates amendments to bill.
Strike-out indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by
amendment.
AUTHORIZED PERSON INTERESTED IN RADIOELECTRIC PRACTICE WITH A PURELY
PERSONAL AIM AND WITHOUT PECUNIARY INTEREST.

(B) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO ALL COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES.

(C) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CODIFY THE
PROVISIONS OF 47 C.F.R. § 97.15 CONCERNING THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION’S PREEMPTION OF LOCAL ORDINANCES REGULATING AMATEUR RADIO
STATION ANTENNA STRUCTURES.

(D) A COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE REGULATING AMATEUR RADIO
STATION ANTENNA STRUCTURES:

(1) MAY NOT PRECLUDE AMATEUR RADIO COMMUNICATIONS;

(2) SHALL REASONABLY ACCOMMODATE AMATEUR RADIO
COMMUNICATIONS; AND

(3) SHALL CONSTITUTE THE MINIMUM PRACTICABLE REGULATION
TO ACCOMPLISH THE LEGITIMATE PURPOSE OF THE ORDINANCE.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
October 1, 2022.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.