

Bill No. 20-19

Concerning: Sign Modification in PUD and MXD

Introduced: December 15, 2020

Revised: _____ Draft No. _____

Enacted: January 19, 2021

Effective: March 20, 2021

Expires: March 15, 2021

Frederick County Code, Chapter 1-19

Section(s) 10.500.9

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: Council Member Kai Hagen

AN ACT to: provide for the modification of signs in PUD and MXD projects.

Executive: 

Date Received: 1-28-2021

Approved: 

Date: 1-28-2021

Vetoed: _____

Date: _____

By amending:

Frederick County Code, Chapter, 1-19

Section(s) 10.500.9

Other: _____

Boldface

Underlining

[Single boldface brackets & ~~Strikethrough~~]

Heading or defined term.

Added to existing law.

Deleted from existing law.

Existing law unaffected by bill.

1 Bill No. 20-19

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3 WHEREAS, the Frederick County Planning Commission may approve modifications to
4 parking, loading, street design, landscaping, screening, buffering requirements, and general
5 development standards for Mixed Use Developments (MXD) and Planned Unit Development
6 (PUD) under certain conditions; and


7 WHEREAS, the sign regulations do not provide for the ability to modify sign standards in
8 the same manner as the other community design elements noted above; and

9 WHEREAS, the County Council of Frederick County, Maryland finds it in the best
10 interests of the County for the County laws and regulations to be amended to specifically provide
11 the manner in which modifications to certain signs can be permitted; and

12 WHEREAS, the intent of this Bill is to provide for flexibility in the type, placement, and
13 location of the signs that would otherwise be permitted within a PUD or MXD project including
14 any individual lots or parcels therein, while acknowledging that the signs may be proposed in
15 alternative locations and would not be considered an off-premise sign so long as the sign content
16 remained limited to the respective PUD or MXD project; and

17 WHEREAS, in order to provide for the opportunity to limit sign clutter along our roadways
18 and community entrances, and to promote an integrated design aesthetic among compatible uses,
19 while maintaining appropriate wayfinding, the County Council of Frederick County, Maryland,
20 finds it necessary and appropriate to amend Chapter 1-19 (Zoning) of the Frederick County Code
21 to address the opportunity to permit sign modifications under certain conditions.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED, that the Frederick County Code be, and is
23 hereby, amended as shown on the attached Exhibit 1.
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31 MC Keegan-Ayer, President
32 County Council of Frederick County,
Maryland

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3 **§ 1-19-10.500.9. GENERAL DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS WITHIN THE PLANNED**
4 **DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS.**

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8 (D) *Modifications.* As part of a Preliminary Plan or Site Development Plan [~~Planned~~
9 ~~Development Phase-III~~] approval, the Planning Commission may approve modifications to
10 parking, loading, street design, landscaping, screening, buffering requirements, signage
11 (excluding billboards) and general development standards as provided in § 1-19-10.500.9(A), in
12 accordance with the following:

- 13 (1) Modifications to parking, loading, landscaping, screening, and buffering requirements
14 shall be limited to modifications as provided for within Article VI: District Regulations.
15 (2) All other modifications may be granted where the applicant or Planning Commission
16 authorized representative can demonstrate need based on characteristics of the proposed
17 use, physical site constraints, or other documentation as approved by the Planning
18 Commission.
19 (3) Where a modification has been granted, the Planning Commission may require
20 alterations to building and site design to minimize negative impacts on surrounding
21 properties that may result from the modification. The building and site design
22 modifications may include: location of public access, buffering and screening,
23 landscaping, lighting, outdoor recreation areas, building location and orientation.
24 (4) The Planning Commission may approve a modification of §1-19-6.300 through §1-19-
25 6.320 for a commercial, non-residential component of a PUD or MXD. The review and
26 approval shall consider how the plan:
27 a) affects pedestrian and vehicular safety and wayfinding;
28 b) thematically represents the commercial/employment or community as a
29 whole;
30 c) maintains and enhances the aesthetic environment by reducing visual clutter
31 along a roadway and minimizing other adverse effects;
32 d) compares to the strict adherence of the sign requirement being modified, provided
33 the overall total amount, type, and height of proposed signage is not greater than
34 what would otherwise be permitted for the project; and
35 e) furtheres other county or state design goals or policies.
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