

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WORCESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND

BILL 20-3

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BY: Commissioners Bertino, Bunting, Church, Elder, Mitrecic, Nordstrom and Purnell  
INTRODUCED: April 21, 2020

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A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT Concerning

Natural Resources - Special Events in Resource Conservation Areas

For the purpose of authorizing special events to be held within Resource Conservation Areas of the Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area.

Section 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WORCESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND, that Subsection § NR 3-102(a) of the Natural Resources Article of the Code of Public Local Laws of Worcester County, Maryland be amended by the addition of a definition of the term "special events" to read as follows:

**SPECIAL EVENTS** — Personal or business social engagements or other activities conducted on a farm where guests assemble for parties, wedding events, birthday or anniversary celebrations, children's parties, corporate and employee appreciation parties, or other similar events for compensation, during which food and beverages may be served to guests and music or other entertainment is allowed.

Section 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WORCESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND, that Subsection § NR 3-108(d) of the Natural Resources Article of the Code of Public Local Laws of Worcester County, Maryland be amended by the addition of a new subsection § NR 3-108(d)(10) to read as follows:

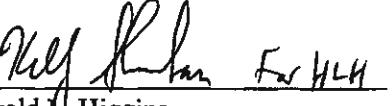
- (10) Special events in an Estate, Agricultural or Resource Protection zoning district as defined in the Worcester County Zoning Ordinance, subject to the following additional standards:
  - A. All lot coverage pertaining to the special events activities, including, but not limited to, temporary structures, temporary tents and otherwise must occur outside the buffer unless the lot coverage existed at the time of special exception application and the provisions of Section NR 3-107(c)(8)(A-D) shall still apply.
  - B. A scaled drawing of the site showing the location of the proposed structures and demonstrating the site requirements for special events in accordance with the provisions of Section ZS 1-203(c)(21) of the County Zoning Ordinance, as from time to time amended, including any temporary structures, temporary tents and temporary parking spaces must be submitted with the special exception application. The scaled drawing must demonstrate how the special event use will minimize impacts to natural resources and protect the defined land uses in the Resource Conservation Area found in this chapter and must also depict the site plan requirements in accordance with the provisions of Section NR 3-109(d)(1) hereof.

- C. Provisions pertaining to lot coverage and clearing limits in the Resource Conservation Area contained in this chapter apply to special event activities. Special event activities shall be in close proximity to existing structures and facilities on the property to minimize adverse impacts to natural resources and are accessory to the principal use of the property.
- D. This use is limited to only properties that are twenty five acres or greater in size and the special events shall be allowed only during the period of April 1 through October 31 of each calendar year, however there shall be no limit on the number of special events that are allowed during this time period.
- E. All lot coverage and proposed temporary structures associated with the special event must comply with Habitat Protection Areas in accordance with the provisions of Section NR 3-120 hereof. This includes protection of the one hundred foot buffer, threatened and endangered species and species in need of conservation, plant and wildlife habitat protection areas including non-tidal wetlands, and anadromous fish propagation waters.

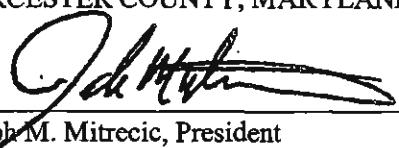
Section 3. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WORCESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND, that this Bill shall take effect forty-five (45) days from the date of its passage.

PASSED this 19<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020.

ATTEST:

  
Harold L. Higgins  
Chief Administrative Officer

FOR THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
WORCESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND

  
Joseph M. Mitrecic, President