

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
Legislative Session 2025, Legislative Day No. 14

Bill No. 62-25

Mr. Wade Kach, Councilman

By the County Council, September 2, 2025

A BILL
ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Zoning Regulations – Hookah and Vapor Lounges – On-Site Security Personnel

FOR the purpose of requiring a hookah lounge or a vapor lounge to have a certain amount of on-site licensed security ~~personnel~~ guards present on the premises during ~~all~~ certain hours of operation; exempting a hookah or vapor lounge from certain residential setback requirements under certain circumstances; and generally relating to hookah and vapor lounges.

BY repealing and re-enacting, with amendments

Section 448.3.B
Baltimore County Zoning Regulations, as amended

BY repealing and re-enacting, without amendments

Section 448.3.A.1
Baltimore County Zoning Regulations, as amended

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from bill.
Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE
2 COUNTY, MARYLAND, that the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations read as follows:

4 ARTICLE 4 – SPECIAL REGULATIONS

5 Section 448 – Hookah and Vapor Lounges

7 § 448.3. Requirements and restrictions.

8 A. A hookah lounge or vapor lounge shall;

9 1. Be located at least 200 feet from any residential property, as measured from
10 the closest point of the premises to the residential property line;

11 B. At all times, a permit holder shall:

12 1. Maintain a video surveillance system that:

13 a. Monitors all off-street parking areas and public entrances;

14 b. Continuously records each day the hookah lounge or vapor lounge is
15 open, from its opening until at least two hours after 12:00 midnight or its closure to the public,
16 whichever is earlier; and

17 c. Retains all video recordings for at least 90 days as business records
18 kept in the normal course of business; [and]

19 2. ~~PROVIDE AN APPROPRIATE NUMBER OF~~ LICENSED SECURITY
20 PERSONNEL GUARDS PRESENT DURING ALL HOURS OF OPERATION ON ANY DAY
21 THE LOUNGE IS OPEN, FROM 7:00 P.M. UNTIL ONE HOUR AFTER CLOSURE IN
22 ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE OF PERSONS ON THE
23 PREMISES; AND, CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

1 A. THE NUMBER OF LICENSED SECURITY GUARDS PROVIDED
2 SHALL BE BASED ON A RATIO OF ONE FOR EVERY 50 PERSONS MULTIPLIED BY
3 THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PERSONS PERMITTED UNDER THE FIRE PREVENTION
4 CODE AND ROUNDED UP TO THE NEXT WHOLE NUMBER; AND

5 B. A MINIMUM OF TWO SECURITY GUARDS SHALL BE
6 PROVIDED IF THE CALCULATION IN SUB-SUBPARAGRAPH A RESULTS IN A
7 NUMBER LESS THAN TWO.

8 [2.] 3. Ensure that the hookah lounge or vapor lounge complies with all laws,
9 regulations, and requirements, including the applicable noise levels set forth in state law and
10 regulation.

11
12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that the requirement of § 448.3.A.1,
13 as enacted in Bill 99-24, shall not apply to a hookah or vapor lounge if such hookah or vapor
14 lounge was in operation at its current location prior to the effective date of Bill 99-24.

15
16 ~~SECTION 2.~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that this Act, having been passed
17 by the affirmative vote of five members of the County Council, shall take effect 14 days after its
18 enactment.



LEGISLATION DETAIL

LEGISLATION _____

DISPOSITION _____

ENACTED _____

EFFECTIVE _____

***KACH ABSENT**

AMENDMENTS _____

ROLL CALL - LEGISLATION

MOTION		SECOND
AYE	NAY	
☐	☐	Councilman Young
☐	☐	Councilman Patoka
☐	☐	Councilman Kach
☐	☐	Councilman Jones
☐	☐	Councilman Marks
☐	☐	Councilman Ertel
☐	☐	Councilman Crandell

ROLL CALL - AMENDMENTS

MOTION		SECOND
AYE	NAY	
☐	☐	Councilman Young
☐	☐	Councilman Patoka
☐	☐	Councilman Kach
☐	☐	Councilman Jones
☐	☐	Councilman Marks
☐	☐	Councilman Ertel
☐	☐	Councilman Crandell

ROLL CALL - AMENDMENTS

MOTION		SECOND
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☐	☐	Councilman Kach
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☐	☐	Councilman Ertel
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ROLL CALL - AMENDMENTS

MOTION		SECOND
AYE	NAY	
☐	☐	Councilman Young
☐	☐	Councilman Patoka
☐	☐	Councilman Kach
☐	☐	Councilman Jones
☐	☐	Councilman Marks
☐	☐	Councilman Ertel
☐	☐	Councilman Crandell



LEGISLATION DETAIL

LEGISLATION

BILL 62-25 - CONT'D

DISPOSITION

ENACTED

N/A

EFFECTIVE

N/A

AMENDMENTS

NONE

ROLL CALL - LEGISLATION

MOTION

SECOND

AYE

NAY

☐☐

Councilman **Young**

☐☐

Councilman Patoka

☐☐

Councilman Kach

☐☐

Councilman Jones

☐☐

Councilman Marks

☐☐

Councilman Ertel

☐☐

Councilman Crandell

ROLL CALL - AMENDMENTS

MOTION

MARKS

SECOND

JONES

AYE

NAY

☐☒

Councilman **Young**

☒☐

Councilman Patoka

☐☐

Councilman Kach

☒☐

Councilman Jones

☒☐

Councilman Marks

☒☐

Councilman Ertel

☐☒

Councilman Crandell

ROLL CALL - AMENDMENTS

MOTION

SECOND

AYE

NAY

☐☐

Councilman **Young**

☐☐

Councilman Patoka

☐☐

Councilman Kach

☐☐

Councilman Jones

☐☐

Councilman Marks

☐☐

Councilman Ertel

☐☐

Councilman Crandell

ROLL CALL - AMENDMENTS

MOTION

SECOND

AYE

NAY

☐☐

Councilman **Young**

☐☐

Councilman Patoka

☐☐

Councilman Kach

☐☐

Councilman Jones

☐☐

Councilman Marks

☐☐

Councilman Ertel

☐☐

Councilman Crandell