



Bill No. 25-12
Concerning: Update to Frederick County Zoning
Ordinance to reduce distance limitations for Cannabis
Dispensaries from certain areas and remove planned
Property from distance limitations.
Introduced October 7, 2025
Revised: _____ Draft No. _____
Enacted: November 18, 2025
Effective: January 17, 2026
Expires: January 5, 2026
Frederick County Code, Chapter 1-19
Section(s) _____

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: Council President Young on Behalf of County Executive Fitzwater

AN ACT to: Amend zoning approval criteria for Cannabis Dispensary in response to the statewide legislation of adult-use cannabis.

Date Council Approved: 11/18/2025 Date Transmitted to Executive: 11/21/2025

Executive: Janice Fitzwater Date Received: 11/24/25

Approved: ✓ Date: 11/25/25

Vetoed: _____ Date: _____

Date returned to Council by County Executive with no action: _____

By amending:

Frederick County Code, 1-19 Section(s) 8.404

Other: _____

Boldface

Underlining

[Single boldface brackets]

Heading or defined term.

Added to existing law.

Deleted from existing law.

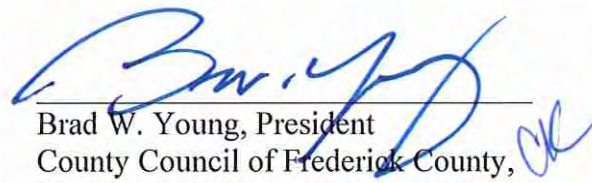
Existing law unaffected by bill.

WHEREAS the State of Maryland adopted Senate Bill 215, which reduces the distance requirement a County may place on Cannabis Dispensaries from areas used for existing public or private schools, parks, libraries, playgrounds, recreation centers, childcare centers, Places of Worship, and family childcare homes; and

WHEREAS the State of Maryland adopted House Bill 805 in 2024, Chapter 244, which allows local jurisdictions to establish distance requirements for Cannabis Dispensaries: 100 feet from residential zones and 500 feet from Places of Worship; and

WHEREAS the County Council of Frederick County, Maryland, finds it necessary and appropriate to amend the Frederick County Code to reduce the distance limitation of 1,500 feet to 500 feet and remove the existing distance limitations on planned development areas to align with Maryland State law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND, that the Frederick County Code be, and is hereby, amended as shown on the attached Exhibit 1.


Brad W. Young, President
County Council of Frederick County,
Maryland

Underlining indicates matter added to existing law.

[Single boldface brackets] indicates matter deleted from existing law.

*** - indicates existing law unaffected by bill.

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ARTICLE

§ 1-19-8.404.2. CANNABIS DISPENSARY.

The following provisions shall apply to a Cannabis Dispensary.

(A) A Cannabis Dispensary may not be located:

(1) Within ~~[1,500]~~ 500 feet of an existing public or private school, park, library, playground, recreation center, childcare center, Place of Worship, and family childcare home.

(2) ~~[Within 1,500 feet of a property owned by Frederick County Government or owned by the Frederick County Board of Education that is planned to be used for a public school, park, library, playground, or recreation center in the future.]~~

(3) ~~Within 1,500 feet of a property identified on the Comprehensive Plan as a future public school, library, recreation center, park, or similar use that is intended to be used for a public purpose.]~~

(2) Within 1,000 feet of another Cannabis Dispensary.

(3) Within 100 feet from a property zoned R-1, R-3, R-5, R-8, R12, or R-16.

(4) Within 100 feet of an existing residential use in the PUD and MXD floating zones.

(B) The distance requirements under subsection (A) above shall be measured using a direct line between the nearest property lines.

(C) A Cannabis Dispensary may not operate as a home occupation.

(D) The Cannabis Dispensary use, requirements, and restrictions apply to operations under a standard cannabis license issued by the state as well as operations under a micro license issued by the state.

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[Single boldface brackets] indicates matter deleted from existing law.

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