

Introduced 03.03.2025
Public Hearing 03.17.2025
Council Action 04.07.2025
Executive Action 04.10.2025
Effective Date 06.10.2025

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2025 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No.

Bill No. 19 -2025

Introduced by: Liz Walsh

SHORT TITLE: Lodging Establishments – Prohibition on Hourly Room Rentals

AN ACT amending the Howard County Code to prohibit an innkeeper or employee of a lodging establishment in Howard County from providing or offering to provide certain rooms in a lodging establishment for less than a certain period of time; and generally related to lodging establishments.

Introduced and read first time March 3, 2025. Ordered posted and hearing scheduled.
By order Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Having been posted and notice of time & place of hearing & title of Bill having been published according to Charter, the Bill was read for a second time at a public hearing on March 17, 2025.

By order Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

This Bill was read the third time on April 7 2025 and Passed ☒ Passed with amendments ☐ Failed ☐

By order Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this 8 day of April, 2025 at 2⁰⁰ a.m./p.m.

By order Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Approved by the County Executive April 10, 2025

Calvin Ball
Calvin Ball, County Executive

NOTE: [text in brackets] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; ~~Strike-out~~ indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment

1 ***Section 1. Be It Enacted*** by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that the Howard
2 *County Code is amended as follows:*

3 *By adding:*

4 *Title 17. "Public Protection Services"*

5 *"Subtitle 14. Miscellaneous."*

6 *"Section 17.1400 Lodging Establishments – Hourly Room Rates-*
7 *Prohibition."*

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9
10
11 **HOWARD COUNTY CODE**

12 **Title 17. Public Protection Services**

13
14 **SUBTITLE 14. – LODGING ESTABLISHMENTS- HOURLY ROOM RATES-PROHIBITION**

15
16 **SEC. 14.000. –PURPOSE.**

17 (A) PURPOSE. IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, THE PURPOSE
18 OF THIS SUBTITLE IS PREVENTING POSSIBLE HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND OTHER CRIMINAL
19 ACTIVITY WHILE ENSURING MINIMAL DISRUPTION TO LODGING ESTABLISHMENTS.
20

21 (B) DEFINITIONS.

22 IN GENERAL. IN THIS SUBTITLE, THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED:

23 (1) *INNKEEPER* MEANS THE OWNER, OPERATOR, MANAGER, OR KEEPER OF A LODGING
24 ESTABLISHMENT, OR THE AGENT OF AN OWNER, OPERATOR, MANAGER, OR KEEPER OF A
25 LODGING ESTABLISHMENT.

26 (2) *LODGING ESTABLISHMENT* MEANS AN INN, HOTEL, MOTEL, OR OTHER ESTABLISHMENT THAT HAS
27 AT LEAST FOUR ROOMS AVAILABLE FOR A FEE TO TRANSIENT GUESTS FOR LODGING OR SLEEPING
28 PURPOSES.

1 (C) – LODGING ESTABLISHMENTS, HOURLY ROOM RATES, PROHIBITION.

2 (1) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO THE RENTAL OF A MEETING, DINING, OR BANQUET ROOM IN A
3 LODGING ESTABLISHMENT.

4 (2) AN INNKEEPER OR EMPLOYEE OF A LODGING ESTABLISHMENT MAY NOT FOR A FEE PROVIDE OR
5 OFFER TO PROVIDE A ROOM IN THE LODGING ESTABLISHMENT FOR AN HOURLY PERIOD.

6 (D). – ENFORCEMENT.

7 THE DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONS, LICENSES AND PERMITS MAY ENFORCE THE PROVISIONS OF THIS
8 SUBTITLE WITH CIVIL PENALTIES PURSUANT TO TITLE 24, “CIVIL PENALTIES” OF THE HOWARD
9 COUNTY CODE. VIOLATION OF THIS SUBSECTION IS A CLASS A OFFENSE AND EACH INSTANCE A
10 VIOLATION OCCURS IS A SPERATE OFFENSE.

11
12 ***Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted by the County Council of Howard County,***
13 ***Maryland, that this Act shall become effective 61 days after its enactment.***

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been approved by the Executive and returned to the Council, stands enacted on April 10, 2025.

Michelle R. Harrod
Michelle R. Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been passed by the yeas and nays of two-thirds of the members of the Council notwithstanding the objections of the Executive, stands enacted on _____, 2025.

Michelle R. Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having received neither the approval nor the disapproval of the Executive within ten days of its presentation, stands enacted on _____, 2025.

Michelle R. Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, not having been considered on final reading within the time required by Charter, stands failed for want of consideration on _____, 2025.

Michelle R. Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been disapproved by the Executive and having failed on passage upon consideration by the Council stands failed on _____, 2025.

Michelle R. Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, the withdrawal of which received a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Council, is withdrawn from further consideration on _____, 2025.

Michelle R. Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

