

COUNTY COUNCIL OF



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COUNTY

M A R Y L A N D

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY*

To: All Councilmembers of the Anne Arundel County Council

From: Linda M. Schuett, Legislative Counsel

Date: February 16, 2021

Subject: Bill No. 21-21

Under existing County law, a landscaping and tree contracting business may, among other things, remove, cut, trim, and prune trees. *See* the definition of the use in §18-1-101. It may not, however, recycle any resulting logs into firewood. This sometimes means that the logs end up in the landfill.

Bill No. 21-21 allows a new use entitled “Landscaping and tree contracting, with accessory recycling of logs into firewood.” The use is a special exception use in RA zoning districts. The use must meet all of the following requirements:

1. It must be on a lot of least five acres.
2. A site development plan is required to delineate the buildings and outdoor areas to be used for parking, loading, or storage of vehicles, equipment, tools, and supplies relating to landscaping and tree contracting, all of which must be located at least 50 feet from lot lines.
3. The site development plan must also show the processing areas, parking and loading areas, and areas for the storage of equipment relating to the recycling of logs into firewood, all of which must be located at least 200 feet from lot lines.
4. Firewood must be stored in windrows not more than 10 feet high and 20 feet wide, in static piles not more than 20 feet high, or in bulk storage bags, and all storage must be located at least 50 feet from lot lines.

* This Legislative Summary provides a synopsis of the bill as introduced. It does not address subsequent amendments to the bill.

5. Outdoor storage may not exceed 20% of the total lot area, not to exceed five acres.
6. The recycling of the logs into firewood may occur in the morning (9 a.m. to 12 p.m.) or in the afternoon (1 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.), but not both. It may occur on weekdays only.
7. The sound level at the lot line of residentially zoned or developed properties may not exceed an average of 55 DBA and a peak of 60 DBA based on readings taken during operations.
8. Logs that are not incidental to the landscaping and tree contracting business may not be stored or processed on the property.
9. The facility must meet the access, nuisance, Landscape Manual, and vehicle or equipment repair requirements contained in §18-11-131(2), (4), (6), and (7).