



Gregory J. Swain, County Attorney

MEMORANDUM

To: Council Members, Anne Arundel County Council

From: Kelly Phillips Kenney, Supervising County Attorney /s/

Via: Gregory J. Swain, County Attorney /s/

Date: February 7, 2022

Subject: Bill No. 26-22 – Public Works – Weeds and Vegetation

Legislative Summary

This summary was prepared by the Anne Arundel County Office of Law for use by members of the Anne Arundel County Council during consideration of Bill No. 26-22. The summary is intended to explain the purposes and legal effects of the bill.

Background. Under Article 13, Title 6 of the County Code, an owner of real property may not allow or maintain the growth of noxious weeds or rank vegetation.¹ § 13-6-103(c). The provisions of § 13-6-103 do not apply to various properties, including parcels owned by community associations. § 13-6-103(a).

Purpose. The purpose of Bill No. 26-22 is to remove parcels owned by community associations from the list of exemptions, and to add stormwater management ponds or devices into the list of exemptions.

Bill provisions.

Subsection **13-6-103(a)** is revised to remove “community association” parcels from the list of exemptions, meaning that the Department of Public Works will be able to take enforcement action when there are noxious weeds or rank vegetation on community association properties.

¹ “Noxious weeds” is defined as “plant material that is generally known to be allergenic, irritating to the skin, or otherwise toxic” and “rank vegetation” means “any growth of weeds or grass to a height of 12 inches or higher”. § 13-6-101.

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

Additionally, stormwater management ponds or devices maintained in accordance with Article 16 and any stormwater management agreement are added to this list of exemptions.

Section 2 provides that the Bill is effective 45 days from the date it becomes law.

The Office of Law is available to answer any additional questions regarding this Bill. Thank you very much.

cc: Honorable Steuart Pittman, County Executive
Matt Power, Chief Administrative Officer
Lori Rhodes, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Land Use
Dr. Kai Boggess-de Bruin, PhD, Chief of Staff
Peter Baron, Legislative Liaison
Christopher J. Phipps, Director, DPW
Karen Henry, Assistant Director, DPW
Alex Baquie, Deputy Director, DPW
Chris Trumbauer, Budget Officer