

COUNTY COUNCIL OF  
 ANNE  
ARUNDEL  
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: May 20, 2021  
Subject: Bill No. 56-21

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Executive Order No. 46, effective April 27, 2021, lifted many COVID-related restrictions but retained the “Criteria for Reopening Restaurants and Social Clubs as a Temporary Use”, as originally contained in an Order dated May 29, 2020. The Criteria allow outdoor seating areas for restaurants as a temporary use, without the need to obtain a permit. Executive Order No. 46 provides that the Criteria remain in effect for the duration of the local emergency proclamation.

Bill No. 50-21 changes the effective date of the emergency proclamation of the County Executive, and executive actions pursuant to the proclamation, to 48 hours after the effective date of the Bill. If passed, the “Criteria for Reopening Restaurants and Social Clubs as a Temporary Use” would also expire 48 hours after the effective date of the Bill.

Bill No. 56-21 adopts those portions of the “Criteria for Reopening Restaurants and Social Clubs as a Temporary Use” that remain relevant. Specifically, the Bill requires that:

1. outdoor seating be delineated by posts, landscaping planters, or the like if the outdoor seating area includes sidewalks, grassed areas, parking pads, or parking lots;
2. outdoor seating that includes one or more parking lots may not use ADA accessible parking spaces, block the flow in and out of the site, or obstruct fire lanes for emergency vehicles;

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

3. points of access to indoor restrooms be provided, if indoor restrooms are to be used, and the outdoor seating may not be located more than 500 feet from the restrooms;
4. building permits be obtained for tents over 200 square feet;
5. outdoor electric or plumbing comply with all Code requirements; and
6. approval from the Board of License Commissioners be obtained for alcohol sales or service, if required.

This Bill, because of its short duration, is uncodified. It remains in effect until October 31, 2021. All outdoor seating must be removed by November 7, 2021 unless all permits and required permissions are obtained.