

COUNTY COUNCIL OF
 ANNE
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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: September 20, 2021
Subject: Bill No. 80-21

Bill No. 80-21 makes it a Class A civil offense to clear trees of significant size in violation of Article 16, Title 3. Section 17-1-101 defines “tree of significant size” as “a tree that, in accordance with Natural Resources Article, Title 5, of the State Code, has a diameter measured at 4.5 feet above the ground of 30 inches or more or that is 75% or more of the diameter of the current State champion tree of that species.”

For a Class A civil offense, the fine imposed is “a fine not exceeding \$10,000 for a first violation or any subsequent violation.” *See* § 9-2-101 of the Code. Certain factors are considered in determining the amount of the fine: the gravity of the violation; willfulness or negligence; the environmental impact; and the cost of restoration and mitigation. Under the current Code, these factors apply to Class A civil offenses in the critical area only. The Bill makes the factors applicable to all Class A civil offenses, whether or not in the critical area.

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