



COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Legislative Summary

To: Members, Anne Arundel County Council

From: Matthew Bennett, Legislative Counsel to the County Council

Date: September 14, 2022

Subject: Bill No. 80-22 – Recreation and Parks – Civil Offenses in County Parks – Enforcement

Current Code

Section 9-2-101(d) of the Code establishes who may issue civil citations for certain violations of the County Code. Under this, the Department of Recreation and Parks is charged with enforcing the provisions of Article 14 of the Code. However, § 14-3-101(c) currently limits this power to enforcing only the following provisions:

§ 14-2-115(c)	Obstructing a park entrance with a motor vehicle, bicycle, minibike, play vehicle, or unicycle or operating such a vehicle in a park area except on a paved road without written permission of the Director.
§ 14-2-115(d)	Parking a motor vehicle in a park overnight.
§ 14-2-115(e)	Parking a motor vehicle anywhere but in a designated parking area.
§ 14-2-118	Permitting one's animal to be a public nuisance or to be at large in a park or failing to remove the animal's excreta.
§ 14-2-119	Using a park boat ramp without valid authorization from the department.

Violations of these provisions are considered Class E civil offenses and the fines are \$50 for the first violation, \$100 for the second violation, and \$500 for the third or any subsequent violation.

In addition, § 9-1-706 prohibits a person from mooring a boat at a County owned or operated wharf or pier for more than four hours out of any 24-hour period. A person who moors a boat in violation of this restriction is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding \$25. The Department of Recreation and Parks cannot currently enforce this in a County park.

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

Purpose

The purpose of Bill No. 80-22 is to expand § 14-3-101(c) to include all conduct prohibited under Article 14, as well as the prohibition against mooring a boat at a County owned or operated wharf or pier for more than four hours out of any 24-hour period. Under Bill No. 80-22, the Department of Recreation and Parks would be given authority to issue civil citations for any violations of Title 2 of Article 14 and § 9-1-706. Violations would remain a Class E civil offense.

Bill No. 80-22**SECTION 1.**

Section 14-3-101(c) is amended to establish a Class E civil offense for engaging in any conduct prohibited under Article 14 or a violation of § 9-1-706.

The list of Article 14 prohibited conduct for which a citation could be issued includes the following:

§ 14-2-101	Drinking or possessing alcoholic beverages in a park without permission.
§ 14-2-102	Camping in a park without permission or failing to abide by camping rules.
§ 14-2-103	Depriving another of use and enjoyment of a park.
§ 14-2-104	Destroying or damaging park property or any part of a park.
§ 14-2-105	Building any kind of fire in a park without permission.
§ 14-2-106	Discharging fireworks, firearms, or explosives in a park
§ 14-2-107	Riding or walking a horse in a park except for in or on designated areas.
§ 14-2-108	Littering in a park.
§ 14-2-109	Conducting meetings of 40 or more people in a park without permission.
§ 14-2-110	Operating model airplanes, rockets, or similar in a park without permission.
§ 14-2-111	Picnicking outside of designated picnic areas without permission.
§ 14-2-112	Using activity and sporting areas for for-profit private instruction without permission.
§ 14-2-113	Selling items in a park without permission.
§ 14-2-114	Using or operating sound amplification equipment in a park without permission.
§ 14-2-115(a)	Exceeding a posted speed limit in a park.
§ 14-2-115(b)	Operating a truck or commercial vehicle in a park without permission.
§ 14-2-115(c)	Obstructing a park entrance with a motor vehicle, bicycle, minibike, play vehicle, or unicycle or operating such a vehicle in a park area except on a paved road without written permission of the Director.
§ 14-2-115(d)	Parking a motor vehicle in a park overnight.

§ 14-2-115(e)	Parking a motor vehicle anywhere but in a designated parking area.
§ 14-2-116	Performing routine repairs or maintenance on a car, in a park.
§ 14-2-117	Capture, harm, or interfere with a wild animal in a park unless authorized.
§ 14-2-118	Permitting one's animal to be a public nuisance or to be at large in a park or failing to remove the animal's excreta.
§ 14-2-119	Using a park boat ramp without valid authorization from the department.

SECTION 2.

This section provides that the bill takes effect 45 days after it becomes law.