

COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. 16-10

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT CONCERNING Revisions to the Criteria for Special Events in Queen Anne's County;

FOR THE PURPOSE of revising the criteria for Special Events in Queen Anne's County, Maryland; providing additional protections for properties adjoining Special Events by increasing the required setback for adjoining residences; applying the noise standard and sound barrier to amplified voices and other sounds; requiring that amplified music, voices and other sounds cease at 10:00 p.m. and be contained within a structure; provide for safe ingress and egress for adjoining properties and generally revising and updating the criteria for Special Events.

BY AMENDING Section 18:1-95.T. of the Code of Public Local Laws of Queen Anne's County.

SECTION I

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND that Section 18:1-95.T. of the Code of Public Local Laws of Queen Anne's County be amended to read as follows:

§18:1-95. Additional Standards for Specified Conditional Use.

T. Special Events.

[Added 3-26-2013 by Ord. No. 01-13]

(1) Purpose. The purpose of this subsection is to establish criteria and requirements for holding special events at *bed-and-breakfasts*, on *farms*, and on single-family residential properties in the County in the Agricultural (AG) and Countryside (CS) Zones and provide additional protections from adverse effects for the adjoining property owners.

(2) The following criteria must be satisfied to hold a *special event*:

(a) Comply with all applicable state and local laws, including but not limited to the effluent disposal regulations of Queen Anne's

County Health Department and requirements of the Queen Anne's County Fire Marshal.

- (b) Be located on a parcel of land at least 20 acres in area.
- (c) Be located at least 300 feet from the nearest residence on adjacent property.
- (d) For properties within the Resource Conservation Area (RCA), *special events* standards are found in Chapter 14:1 Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Act. For properties outside of the RCA, the annual number of events shall be limited to a maximum of five (5) events per calendar year. An event has a maximum of two consecutive days consisting of 48 hours.
- (e) Hours during which *special events* occur shall be determined by the Board of Appeals.
- (f) Be limited to the number of guests allowed by the Queen Anne's County Health Department and Fire Marshal.
- (g) Outdoor amplified music, voices and other sounds shall not exceed 65 dB (decibel) level as measured from adjacent properties or residences according to §18:1-95.T.(2)(c) and shall cease at 10:00 p.m. Events with amplified music must be contained within a structure with four sides including tents. Such structures, including tents, must have sides constructed of vinyl side panels or similar material and may not be screen.
- (h) Provide lighting that is installed and maintained to confine direct light beams to the lighted property and away from nearby properties and the vision of passing motorists.
- (i) Be conducted on properties with direct access to the public or private road. Properties with shared access rights-of-way shall provide written certified notification to the adjoining property owners prior to holding a special event subject to this section.

Access rights-of-way shall accommodate the passing of two vehicles or provide a pull-off area that will allow two vehicles to pass.

- (j) Provide all parking on-site in designated areas that are as far removed from nearby residences as possible. Special measures shall be employed to assure safe travel on adjacent roads and intersections in the immediate vicinity of the event. Methods such as remote parking with shuttle service or valet parking may be employed as determined by the Board of Appeals.
 - (k) Limit signage to one non-illuminated nameplate, not exceeding eight square feet in area.
- (3) In addition to other conditional use requirements set forth in Chapter 18:1, Part 5, Article XVII, *special events zoning certificate* shall be issued annually pursuant to §18:1-138.

SECTION II

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that upon introduction, this Ordinance shall be referred to the Queen Anne's County Planning Commission for investigation and recommendation pursuant to §18:1-218 of the Code of Public Local Laws.

SECTION III

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Act shall take effect on the forth-sixth (46th) day following its enactment.

INTRODUCED BY: Commissioner Anderson

DATE: July 12, 2016

WITHDRAWN JANUARY 8, 2019