

COUNTY COUNCIL
OF
DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND

BILL NO. 2026-3

AN ACT OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND TO AMEND CHAPTER 150 (WHARVES, DOCKS, MARINAS, PIERS AND HARBOR FACILITIES, PUBLIC) OF THE DORCHESTER COUNTY CODE BY PROVIDING THAT THE COUNTY MAY TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO REMOVE OBSTRUCTIONS BY MANNER OF AN AUTHORIZED PRIVATE TOWING CONTRACTOR; PROVIDING THAT THE TITLE OF THIS BILL SHALL BE DEEMED A FAIR SUMMARY, AND GENERALLY RELATING TO COUNTY ZONING INFRACTIONS IN DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Local Gov't § 10-317(a)(4), the County Council of Dorchester County, Maryland (the "County Council") is authorized and empowered to enact local laws to protect and promote public safety, health, morals, comfort, and welfare relating to the erection, construction, repair, and use of buildings and other structures in Dorchester County, Maryland (the "County"); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the foregoing statutory authority, the County Council is desirous of amending Chapter 150 of the Dorchester County Code for the purpose of providing that the County may remove obstructions from a public facility by manner of an authorized private towing contractor and that such obstructions may be removed to a facility deemed appropriate by the County; and

WHEREAS, the County Council finds that the enactments set forth herein are necessary to promote and protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

SECTION ONE: Acting under Md. Code Ann., Local Gov't § 10-317(a)(4) and Chapter 150 of the County Code, be it ENACTED and ORDAINED by the County Council of Dorchester County, Maryland that Chapter 150 (Wharves, Docks, Marinas, Piers and Harbor Facilities, Public), § 150-11 of the County Code be and it is hereby amended to read as follows:

§ 150-11 Bulkhead areas.

The bulkhead areas of any public wharf or public harbor facility shall be kept clear and unobstructed for loading and unloading only and not for tie-ups or storage, except with written permission of the Council. If a public wharf or public harbor facility is obstructed for a period of time in excess of three days, the County Council will take appropriate action to notify the person responsible for the obstruction and, if the obstruction is not removed within five days, the ~~Dorchester County~~ acting through an authorized private towing contractor, ~~Sheriff's Department~~ will take appropriate action to remove it to a facility deemed appropriate by the

County. In the event that the County Council is unable to contact the person responsible for the obstruction, after 15 days, the ~~Dorchester County~~, **acting through an authorized private towing contractor, Sheriff's Department** will remove the obstruction.

SECTION TWO: With respect to the substantive provisions of this Bill set forth in Section 1, additions are shown in bold, underlined font and deletions are shown in strikethrough. Substantive language added after the date of introduction is in bold, italicized font and substantive language deleted after the date of introduction is crossed out with a double strikethrough.

SECTION THREE: And be it further enacted and ordained that if any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Bill is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Bill, it being the intent of the County Council that this Bill shall stand, notwithstanding the invalidity of any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion hereof.

SECTION FOUR: And be it further enacted and ordained that all bills, ordinances, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Bill are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION FIVE: And be it further enacted and ordained that General Code Publishers is directed to codify the above amendments to the Dorchester County Code accordingly.

SECTION SIX: And be it further enacted and ordained pursuant to § 308 of the Charter of Dorchester County, Maryland that promptly after enactment of this Act, the County Manager shall cause a fair summary of this Act to be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in Dorchester County, Maryland.

SECTION SEVEN: And be it further enacted and ordained that this Bill shall be known as Bill No. 2026-3 of Dorchester County, Maryland and shall take effect sixty (60) days after its final passage.

PASSED this 17th day of March, 2026.


ATTEST:

COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER
COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY:


Jerry Jones
County Manager

BY:


George L. Pfeffer, Jr.
President

Pfeffer - Aye

Detmer - Aye

Kramer - Aye

Nichols - Absent

Travers - Aye