

HARFORD COUNTY BILL NO. 24-010

Brief Title (Floodplain Management Ordinance)
is herewith submitted to the County Council of Harford County for enrollment as being the text as finally passed.

CERTIFIED TRUE AND CORRECT

Myles A. Dixon
Council Administrator

Date 3/14/24

ENROLLED

Robert M. ...
Council President

Date 5/14/24

BY THE COUNCIL

Read the third time.

Passed: LSD 24-015

Failed of Passage: _____

By Order

Myles A. Dixon
Council Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this 15th
Day of May 2024, at 3:00 p.m.

Myles A. Dixon
Council Administrator

BY THE EXECUTIVE

[Signature]
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

APPROVED: Date 5.16.2024

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill No. 24-019 having been approved by the Executive and returned to the Council, becomes law on May 16, 2024.

EFFECTIVE: July 15, 2024

COUNTY COUNCIL
OF
HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND

BILL NO. 24-010

Introduced by Council President Patrick Vincenti at the request of the County Executive

Legislative Day No. 24-011 Date April 2, 2024

AN ACT to repeal and reenact, with amendments, Section 19, Buildings and structures, of Article III, Requirements in All Flood Hazard Areas, of Chapter 131, Floodplain Management Program, of the Harford County Code by deleting Subsection E and renumbering the remaining subsections therein; and, generally relating to the Harford County Floodplain Management Program.

By the Council, *Mylin A. Dixon*

Introduced, read first time, ordered posted and public hearing scheduled

on: May 7, 2024

at: 6:30 PM

By Order: *Mylin A. Dixon*, Council Administrator

PUBLIC HEARING

Having been posted and notice of time and place of hearing and title of Bill having been published according to the Charter, a public hearing was held on May 7, 2024, and concluded on May 7, 2024.

Mylin A. Dixon, Council Administrator

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW. (Brackets) indicate matter deleted from existing law. Underlining indicates language added to Bill by amendment. Language lined through indicates matter stricken out of Bill by amendment.

1 WHEREAS, Harford County participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (“NFIP”),
2 along with the Community Rating System (“CRS”); and

3 WHEREAS, CRS is a voluntary program that rewards communities for floodplain
4 management practices that exceed the minimum requirements of the NFIP; and

5 WHEREAS, in 2021, the CRS program changed its manual regarding credits given to
6 communities that elevate service equipment in buildings and structures; and

7 WHEREAS, in order to continue to get the maximum credit for the elevation of service
8 equipment, Subsection E must be removed since the County’s current ordinance gives an exception to
9 the service equipment installation levels; and

10 WHEREAS, the change will require all service equipment and components to be elevated to
11 the flood protection elevation, with no design alternative; and

12 WHEREAS, Harford County is currently a Class 7 community for purposes of calculating
13 flood insurance rates, which offers a discount of fifteen percent (15%) off regular insurance rates; and

14 WHEREAS, if the County does not make this change to its Floodplain Management Program,
15 the County would revert to a Class 9 community, which is entitled to only a five percent (5%)
16 discounted insurance rate.

17 NOW THEREFORE,

18 Section 1. Be It Enacted By The County Council of Harford County, Maryland that Section 19,
19 Buildings and structures, of Article III, Requirements in All Flood Hazard Areas, of Chapter 131,
20 Floodplain Management Program, of the Harford County Code, as amended, be, and it is hereby,
21 repealed and reenacted, with amendments, all to read as follows:

22 **Chapter 131. Floodplain Management Program**

23 **Article III. Requirements in All Flood Hazard Areas**

1 **§ 131-19 Buildings and structures.**

2 New buildings and structures (including the placement and replacement of manufactured homes) and
3 substantial improvement of existing structures (including manufactured homes) and repetitive loss
4 structures, that are located, in whole or in part, in any special flood hazard area shall:

5 A. Be designed (or modified) and constructed to safely support flood loads. The construction
6 shall provide a complete load path capable of transferring all loads from their point of origin
7 through the load-resisting elements to the foundation. Structures shall be designed,
8 connected and anchored to resist flotation, collapse or permanent lateral movement due to
9 structural loads and stresses, including hydrodynamic and hydrostatic loads and the effects of
10 buoyancy, from flooding equal to the flood protection elevation or the elevation required by
11 these provisions or the Building Code, whichever is higher.

12 B. Be constructed by methods and practices that minimize flood damage.

13 C. Use flood damage-resistant materials below the elevation of the lowest floor required in
14 Section 131-31A or Section 131-32A (for A Zones) or Section 131-37B (for V Zones and
15 Coastal A Zones).

16 D. Have electrical systems, equipment and components, and mechanical, heating, ventilating,
17 air conditioning, and plumbing appliances, plumbing fixtures, duct systems, and other
18 service equipment located at or above the elevation of the lowest floor required in Section
19 131-31A or Section 131-32A (A Zones) or Section 131-37B (V Zones and Coastal A Zones).

20 Electrical wiring systems are permitted to be located below elevation of the lowest floor
21 provided they conform to the provisions of the electrical part of the Building Code for wet
22 locations. If replaced as part of a substantial improvement, electrical systems, equipment and
23 components, and heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and plumbing appliances, plumbing

1 fixtures, duct systems, and other service equipment shall meet the requirements of this
2 section.

3 [E. As an alternative to Paragraph D, electrical systems, equipment and components, and
4 heating, ventilating, air conditioning, and plumbing appliances, plumbing fixtures, duct
5 systems, and other service equipment are permitted to be located below the elevation of the
6 lowest floor provided they are designed and installed to prevent water from entering or
7 accumulating within the components and to resist hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and
8 stresses, including the effects of buoyancy, during the occurrence of flooding to that
9 elevation.]

10 [F.]E. Have the electric panelboard elevated at least 3 feet above the BFE.

11 [G.]F. If located in flood hazard areas (A Zones) that are not identified as Coastal A Zones and
12 Coastal high hazard areas (V Zones), comply with the specific requirements of Article IV.

13 [H.]G. If located in Coastal A Zone, comply with the specific requirements of:

14 (1) Article V (new construction and placement of new manufactured homes); or

15 (2) Article IV (substantial improvements (including repair of substantial damage) and
16 replacement manufactured homes).

17 [I.]H. If located in coastal high hazard areas (V Zones), comply with the specific requirements of
18 Article V.

19 [J.]I. Comply with the requirements of the most restrictive designation if located on a site that has
20 more than 1 flood zone designation (A Zone, designated floodway, Coastal A Zone, V
21 Zone).

22 Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted that this Act shall take effect sixty (60) calendar days from
23 the date it becomes law.

EFFECTIVE: July 15, 2024

The Council Administrator does hereby certify that seven (7) copies of this Bill are immediately available for distribution to the public and the press.

Mylia A. Dixon

Council Administrator