

Introduced _____
Public Hearing _____
Council Action _____
Executive Action _____
Effective Date _____

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2025 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 11

Bill No. 58 -2025

Introduced by: Deb Jung

SHORT TITLE: Emergency Act – Prohibition and Fines for For-Profit Parties or
Entertainment on Residential Property

AN ACT adding a provision to Title 8, Subtitle 9 of the Howard County Code prohibiting parties or entertainment for profit; establishing the penalty for violation of the prohibition against parties or entertainment for profit at a residential property; declaring that this Act is an Emergency Bill necessary to meet an immediate emergency affecting public health, safety or welfare; and generally related to for-profit parties or entertainment.

Introduced and read first time _____, 2025. Ordered posted and hearing scheduled.

By order _____
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Having been posted and notice of time & place of hearing & title of Bill having been published according to Charter, the Bill was read for a second time at a public hearing on _____, 2025.

By order _____
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

This Bill was read the third time on _____, 2025 and Passed ___, Passed with amendments ___, Failed ____.

By order _____
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this _____ day of _____, 2025 at ___ a.m./p.m.

By order _____
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Approved by the County Executive _____, 2025

Calvin Ball, County Executive

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; ~~Strike-out~~ indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.

1 **WHEREAS**, Title 8 of the Howard County Code (the “Code”) establishes the regulations
2 regarding Crimes and Misdemeanors in Howard County; and

3
4 **WHEREAS**, Section 8.900 of the Code outlines the provisions regarding noise affecting
5 residential areas; and

6
7 **WHEREAS**, for-profit parties are promoted to the general public and use residential
8 properties as commercial event spaces, serving alcohol without the proper licensing and violating
9 safety and health standards; and

10
11 **WHEREAS**, Section 101.0.O of the Howard County Zoning Regulations prohibits any
12 use of property that is not specifically enumerated as a use permitted as a matter of right or as an
13 accessory use in the various zoning districts as provided by the Zoning Regulations; and

14
15 **WHEREAS**, unregulated for-profit parties in residential properties result in public
16 intoxication and under-age drinking, uncontrolled parking in neighborhood streets, unsafe crowd
17 control, insufficient or non-existent fire-safety considerations, and insufficient sanitation and
18 hygiene; and

19
20 **WHEREAS**, due to the nature and prevalence of such parties during the summer months,
21 there exists an immediate emergency affecting the public health, safety, and welfare of Howard
22 County residents;

23
24 **NOW, THEREFORE,**

25
26 ***Section 1. Be It Enacted** by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that the Howard*
27 *County Code is amended as follows:*

28
29 *By adding:*

30 *Title 8 -. “Crimes and Misdemeanors”*

31 *Subtitle 9 -. “Noise”*

1 *New Section 8.901-. “Commercial House Parties”*

2

3 **Title 8 - Crimes and Misdemeanors**

4 **Subtitle 9 – Noise**

5 **SECTION 8.901. – FOR-PROFIT PARTIES AT RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES**

6 (A) PROHIBITION

7 A PERSON OR ENTITY SHALL NOT PROMOTE, ORGANIZE, OR HOST ANY PARTY OR OTHER
8 ENTERTAINMENT FOR PROFIT AT A RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY TO WHICH THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS
9 ADMITTED, NOTWITHSTANDING THE APPROVED ACCESSORY USES THAT MEET THE PROVISIONS
10 OF THE HOWARD COUNTY ZONING REGULATIONS.

11

12 (B) ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

13 THE HOWARD COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT SHALL ENFORCE THE PROVISIONS OF THIS
14 SECTION.

15

16 (C) PENALTIES

17 A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION OCCURRING AT A RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY SHALL BE A CLASS A
18 OFFENSE. NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 24.107 OF THE HOWARD COUNTY
19 CODE, THE CIVIL PENALTY MUST BE IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$5,000. NO NOTICE OF
20 VIOLATION IS REQUIRED PRIOR TO THE ISSUANCE OF THE CITATION.

21

22 ***Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland,***
23 ***that this Act is adopted as an emergency measure to address an immediate emergency affecting***
24 ***public health, safety, or welfare and having been passed by two-thirds of its members, this Act***
25 ***shall be effective immediately upon its enactment.***