

Council Bill 74-2025 (ZRA217) Fiscal Analysis

Introduced: November 3, 2025

Fiscal Manager: Owen Kahn

Legislative Intent: This legislation makes various changes to the zoning regulations governing agritourism and other agriculture and farm focused businesses.

ANALYSIS

Fiscal Impact:

This legislation will not have an impact on the County budget because there are no revenues or costs associated with Zoning Regulation Amendments (ZRA). Any potential costs for code enforcement and staff would be absorbed by the Department of Planning and Zoning's (DPZ) existing budget. Code enforcement is complaint driven so enforcement would only occur if there were complaints against an agritourism business based on regulations amended by this ZRA.

According to DPZ, the changes in the zoning regulations are designed to “reduce conflicts in the current zoning code” and “add opportunities” for agritourism.

An economic impact analysis on how these zoning changes may affect agritourism businesses has not been conducted. According to the [US Department of Agriculture 2022 Census of Agriculture](#), the number of farms operating agritourism businesses in Howard County has increased from 15 in 2017 to 23 in 2022.¹ These businesses had a combined income of approximately \$2.2 million.

Budget Implications:

- N/A.

Other Notes:

- A request has been sent to the Economic Development Authority for information on agritourism and other agriculture businesses, including trends in County tax revenue from these uses.

¹ Complete report Page 268