

NOTICE OF PASSAGE OF BILL 20-7
WORCESTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Take Notice that Bill 20-7 (Zoning – Casino Entertainment District) was passed by Commissioners Bertino, Church, Elder, Nordstrom and Purnell on October 20, 2020.

A fair summary of the bill is as follows:

§ZS 1-103(b). (Adds the definition for “Casino” in the Zoning and Subdivision Control Article to describe a building or structure in which gaming tables, wagering devices or machines, or other games of chance are present and available for persons to wager. It does not include games of chance that are operated by a charitable organization licensed under County Law.)

§ZS 1-103(b). (Adds the definition for “Gaming Facility” in the Zoning and Subdivision Control Article to describe a “casino” as well as the associated amenities, such as but not limited to a restaurant, bar, hotel, retail establishment, or exhibition hall.)

§ZS 1-202(b)(20). (Adds “Casino entertainment district” to the list of uses permitted in the A-2 Agricultural District.)

§ZS 1-352. (Adds this entirely new section to the Zoning and Subdivision Control Article to establish an overlay district for the “casino entertainment district” with the intent of encouraging comprehensive planned gaming facilities or casinos under a unified plan of development that allows for flexibility while also requiring harmonious design within the development and ensuring compatibility with and minimum impact upon existing and future development in the surrounding area; establishes requirements for the district, including: a minimum lot area of fifty acres; direct access to a major collector or arterial highway; provides a list of permitted uses; parking and pedestrian circulation requirements; open space and landscaping provisions; architectural design; height limitations; and establishes a review and approval process with specific standards and criteria to be evaluated by the Planning Commission.)

This bill becomes effective forty-five (45) days from the date of its passage.

This is only a fair summary of the bill. A full copy of the bill is posted on the Legislative Bulletin Board in the main hall of the Worcester County Government Center outside Room 1103, is available for inspection in Room 1103 of the Worcester County Government Center, and is available on the County Website at www.co.worcester.md.us.

THE WORCESTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS