

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
Legislative Session 2007, Legislative Day No. 23

Bill No. 103-07

Mr. T. Bryan McIntire, Councilman

By the County Council, December 17, 2007

A BILL
ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Weed Control

FOR the purpose of authorizing the Department of Environmental Protection and Resource Management to modify certain requirements relating to the growth of grass, vegetation and noxious weeds on land in the county; and generally relating to weed control.

BY repealing and re-enacting, with amendments

Section 13-7-401

Article 13 - Public Health, Safety, and the Environment

Title 7 - Nuisances

Baltimore County Code 2003

1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE
2 COUNTY, MARYLAND, that Section 13-7-401 of Article 13 - Public, Health, Safety, and the
3 Environment, Title 7 - Nuisances, of the Baltimore County Code 2003 be and it is hereby repealed
4 and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from bill.
Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

1 13-7-401. Prohibited Acts; Penalty.

2 (a) In General. An owner, occupant, or person in control of a lot or parcel of land in the county may
3 not allow or maintain on the lot or parcel of land:

4 (1) A growth of grass, weeds, or other rank vegetation to a height exceeding 1 foot; or

5 (2) Ragweed, poison ivy, and all other noxious weeds that are generally known to be either
6 allergenic, a skin irritant, or toxic when ingested.

7 (b) Authority to modify the requirements.

8 (1) The Department may modify the requirements of subsection (a) of this section in the
9 cases of bona fide agricultural property, natural wooded areas, NATURALLY VEGETATED
10 LANDSCAPE BUFFERS IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS, stream protection areas, habitat protection
11 areas, steep slopes and erodible soil protection areas, storm water management facilities areas,
12 unimproved areas in more than 3 acres, areas publicly owned and maintained as natural areas, and
13 private open-space areas covenanted with the county as recreational areas to be maintained in their
14 natural state.

15 (2) (i) Notwithstanding paragraph (1) of this subsection, noxious weeds as described in
16 subsection (a) (2) of this section may not be allowed to grow within 20 yards of a property line
17 adjoining an occupied residential, commercial, or industrial property.

18 (ii) The setback requirement of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph does not apply to
19 wetlands, stream protection areas, habitat protection areas, steep slope and erodible soil protection
20 areas, storm water management facilities areas, NATURALLY VEGETATED LANDSCAPE
21 BUFFERS IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS, and nature study areas.

22 (c) Destruction of noxious weeds. Noxious weeds may be destroyed by:

23 (1) Spraying with a chemical compound;

- 1 (2) Cutting and removal;
- 2 (3) Plowing under; or
- 3 (4) Another method recommended by the Department of Health.

4 (d) Penalty - Criminal.

5 (1) An owner, occupant, or person in control of a lot or parcel of land who fails to comply
6 with this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding
7 \$1,000.

8 (2) Each day a violation continues constitutes a separate offense.

9

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Act shall take effect 45 days after
11 its enactment.