



Bill No. 25-12
Concerning: Update to Frederick County Zoning
Ordinance to reduce distance limitations for Cannabis
Dispensaries from certain areas and remove planned
Property from distance limitations.
Introduced October 7, 2025
Revised: _____ Draft No. _____
Enacted: _____
Effective: _____
Expires: January 5, 2025
Frederick County Code, Chapter 1-19
Section(s) _____

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: Council President Young on Behalf of County Executive Fitzwater

AN ACT to: Amend zoning approval criteria for Cannabis Dispensary in response to the statewide legislation of adult-use cannabis.

Date Council Approved: _____ Date Transmitted to Executive: _____

Executive: _____ Date Received: _____

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Vetoed: _____ Date: _____

Date returned to Council by County Executive with no action: _____

By amending:
Frederick County Code, 1-19 Section(s) 8.404

Other: _____

Boldface

Underlining

[Single boldface brackets]

Heading or defined term.

Added to existing law.

Deleted from existing law.

Existing law unaffected by bill.

1 Bill No. 25-12

2 WHEREAS the State of Maryland adopted Senate Bill 215, which reduces the distance
3 requirement a County may place on Cannabis Dispensaries from areas used for existing public or
4 private schools, parks, libraries, playgrounds, recreation centers, childcare centers, Places of
5 Worship, and family childcare homes; and
6

7 WHEREAS the State of Maryland adopted House Bill 805 in 2024, Chapter 244, which
8 allows local jurisdictions to establish distance requirements for Cannabis Dispensaries: 100 feet
9 from residential zones and 500 feet from Places of Worship; and
10

11 WHEREAS the County Council of Frederick County, Maryland, finds it necessary and
12 appropriate to amend the Frederick County Code to reduce the distance limitation of 1,500 feet to
13 500 feet and remove the existing distance limitations on planned development areas to align with
14 Maryland State law.
15

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF
17 FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND, that the Frederick County Code be, and is hereby,
18 amended as shown on the attached Exhibit 1.
19
20
21
22

23 _____
24 Brad W. Young, President
25 County Council of Frederick County,
26 Maryland

ARTICLE

§ 1-19-8.404.2. CANNABIS DISPENSARY.

The following provisions shall apply to a Cannabis Dispensary.

(A) A Cannabis Dispensary may not be located:

(1) Within ~~[1,500]~~ 500 feet of an existing public or private school, park, library, playground, recreation center, childcare center, Place of Worship, and family childcare home.

~~(2) [Within 1,500 feet of a property owned by Frederick County Government or owned by the Frederick County Board of Education that is planned to be used for a public school, park, library, playground, or recreation center in the future.~~

~~(3) Within 1,500 feet of a property identified on the Comprehensive Plan as a future public school, library, recreation center, park, or similar use that is intended to be used for a public purpose.]~~

(2) Within 1,000 feet of another Cannabis Dispensary.

(3) Within 100 feet from a property zoned R-1, R-3, R-5, R-8, R12, or R-16.

(4) Within 100 feet of an existing residential use in the PUD and MXD floating zones.

(B) The distance requirements under subsection (A) above shall be measured using a direct line between the nearest property lines.

(C) A Cannabis Dispensary may not operate as a home occupation.

(D) The Cannabis Dispensary use, requirements, and restrictions apply to operations under a standard cannabis license issued by the state as well as operations under a micro license issued by the state.

Underlining indicates matter added to existing law.

[Single boldface brackets] indicates matter deleted from existing law.

**** - indicates existing law unaffected by bill.*