

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
SITTING AS THE DISTRICT COUNCIL
2021 Legislative Session**

Bill No. CB-068-2021

Chapter No. _____

Proposed and Presented by Council Member Glaros

Introduced by _____

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction _____

ZONING BILL

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 Urban Farms—Definitions—Residential Zones

3 For the purpose of amending the Zoning Ordinance to expand the definition of the use “Urban
4 Farm” to include the limited keeping of fowl in chicken coops and lofts, subject to certain
5 restrictions and requirements, and permitting the use in certain Residential Zones of Prince
6 George’s County.

7 BY repealing and reenacting with amendments:

8 Sections 27-107.01 and 27-441,
9 The Zoning Ordinance of Prince George's County, Maryland,
10 being also

11 **SUBTITLE 27. ZONING.**

12 The Prince George's County Code
13 (2019 Edition; 2020 Supplement).

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County,
15 Maryland, sitting as the District Council for that part of the Maryland-Washington Regional
16 District in Prince George's County, Maryland, that Sections 27-107.01 and 27-441 of the Zoning
17 Ordinance of Prince George's County, Maryland, being also Subtitle 27 of the Prince George's
18 County Code, be and the same are hereby repealed and reenacted with the following
19 amendments:

20 **SUBTITLE 27. ZONING.**

PART 2. GENERAL.

DIVISION 1. DEFINITIONS.

Sec. 27-107.01. Definitions.

(a) Terms in the Zoning Ordinance are defined as follows:

* * * * *

(243.8) Urban Farm: A use permitting a non-profit organization or for-profit business for the cultivation of fruits, vegetables, flowers, and other ornamental and edible plants; the limited keeping and raising of bees; and similar activities on residential, commercial, or industrial lands. "Urban farm" uses may include processing of agricultural product on the site of the farm where grown or raised in the course of preparing the product for sale, which may cause a change in the natural form or state of the product. Said use also includes composting, agricultural education, and incidental sales (excluding R-80 and R-55). In addition, "Urban farm" uses may occur indoors or outdoors, including but not limited to the following production methods: in-ground farming; raised-bed farming; hydroponics; controlled environment agriculture; rooftop farming; or aquaponics. Common accessory structures associated with "Urban farm" uses may include, but are not limited to: tool sheds; high tunnels; fencing; composting structures; and water cisterns , and chicken coops or lofts. Lastly, the term "Urban farm" shall not include "Agriculture"; the keeping of roosters [, fowl,] or livestock; commercial feeding of garbage or offal to animals; the slaughtering of livestock or fowl for marketing; or the disposal of sludge, except for the fertilization of crops; and, horticultural products; or floricultural products in connection with an active agricultural operation or home gardening.

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PART 5. RESIDENTIAL ZONES.
DIVISION 3. USES PERMITTED.

Sec. 27-441. Uses permitted.

(b) TABLE OF USES.

USE	ZONE								
	R-O-S	O-S	R-A	R-E	R-R	R-80	R-55	R-35	R-20
(1) COMMERCIAL:									
* * * * *	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
(F) Urban Farm	P ¹⁴³	P ¹⁴³	P ¹⁴³	P ¹⁴³	P ¹⁴³	P ^{112, 143}	P ^{112, 143}	X	X
* * * * *	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

USE	ZONE							
	R-T	R-30	R-30C	R-18	R-18C	R-10A	R-10	R-H
(1) COMMERCIAL:								
* * * * *	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
(F) Urban Farm	X	P ^{97, 112, 135, 143}	X	P ^{97, 112, 135, 143}	X	P ^{97, 112, 135, 143}	P ^{97, 112, 135, 143}	P ^{97, 112, 135, 143}
* * * * *	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

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143 Urban farms may possess chickens for farming operations, provided:

- (A) Individuals do not possess roosters, and have any cockerels between four (4) weeks and three (3) months of age caponized by a veterinarian.
- (B) Individuals obtain a permit from the Office of Animal Control _____
- (C) Individuals register with the Maryland Department of Agriculture, Domestic Poultry and Exotic Bird Registration Division, and
- (D) All chickens have access to a coop or loft that provides for their needs as defined by Sec. 3-131 of this Code, and protects them from predators and rodents:
 - (i) Individuals obtain all applicable zoning and building permits or authorizations prior to building or using a chicken coop or loft;
 - (ii) Coops and/or lofts allow a minimum of 3 square feet per hen;
 - (iii) No coop or loft is closer than 20 ft to any residence; and
 - (iv) Each coop or loft is moved at least once every week to minimize the build-up of manure borne pathogens, such as coccidiosis and roundworms.
- (E) No more than four (4) chickens over the age of 1 month are kept on lots less than 2,000 sq. ft.
- (F) On lots between 2,000 sq. ft and 5,000 sq. ft, four (4) chickens over the age of 1 month are kept, as well as one (1) additional chicken over the age of 1 month for every additional 1,000 sq. ft of lot area.
- (G) On lots greater than 5,000 sq. ft in size, urban agricultural enterprises possess no more than seven (7) chickens unless they submit a permit application to the animal control commission adhering to the following standards:
 - (i) One (1) additional chicken over the age of one month may be kept for every additional 1,000 sq. ft of lot, not to exceed a total of fifty (50) chickens.
 - (ii) The application includes a written management plan that describes how the chickens and their feed will be protected from predators and other pests, and how impacts to the surrounding property owners will be avoided.
- (H) All chickens are protected against cruelty or neglect as defined in Sec. 3-180 of this Code.
- (I) No chickens are raised, owned, or slaughtered for the purpose of human consumption. Any deceased chickens are disposed of under one of the following conditions.
 - (i) The chicken carcass is given to the Office of Animal Control for disposal.
 - (ii) The chicken carcass is given to a licensed veterinarian for disposal.
 - (iii) The chicken carcass is wrapped in no less than 3 (three) garbage bags and taken to a landfill provided that the chicken died of natural causes. This option is prohibited for chickens that died due to parasites or disease.
- (J) The keeping of chickens adheres to all regulations by the Prince George's County Health Department and Maryland Department of Agriculture.

1 SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Ordinance shall take effect forty-five
2 (45) calendar days after its adoption.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2021.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE’S
COUNTY, MARYLAND, SITTING AS THE
DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THAT PART OF
THE MARYLAND-WASHINGTON REGIONAL
DISTRICT IN PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY,
MARYLAND

BY: _____
Calvin S. Hawkins, II
Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council

KEY:
Underscoring indicates language added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate language deleted from existing law.
Asterisks *** indicate intervening existing Code provisions that remain unchanged.