



## ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY GOVERNMENT RELATIONS OFFICE

### **Legislative and Fiscal Summary of Administration Legislation**

**To:** Members, Anne Arundel County Council

**From:** Ethan Hunt, Director of Government Affairs /s/

**Date:** September 2, 2025

**Subject:** Bill No. 76 -25 – Public Safety – Sidewalks – Removal of Snow and Ice

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This summary was prepared by the Anne Arundel County Government Relations Office for use by members of the Anne Arundel County Council during consideration of Bill No. 76-25.

### **Summary**

This legislation, brought at the request of the Administration on behalf of the Department of Public Works (“DPW”) and the Department of Inspections & Permits (“I&P”), revises the complaint and enforcement process and responsibilities for removing snow and ice from county sidewalks after winter weather events to ensure greater compliance. These changes are recommended based on feedback that the Administration received following several winter weather events in early 2025. Between January and March of this year, several winter weather events occurred, and property owners in some instances failed to clear snow and ice from sidewalks abutting their property, creating difficulty for pedestrians, individuals with mobility issues, and students walking to school.

Currently, under Anne Arundel County Code § 9-1-710 the owner, user, or occupant of property on a street along which there is a paved sidewalk is required to remove the snow and ice from the sidewalk fronting the property within six hours after the fall of snow. When the snow falls between 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m., the owner, user, or occupant shall remove the snow and ice before 11:00 a.m. If a person fails to comply, DPW may cause the snow or ice to be removed and shall certify the cost of removal to the Controller, with costs paid to the County by the person who failed to remove snow or ice and the costs may be recovered by the County in an action at law. A person who violates this provision is guilty of a misdemeanor and, on conviction, is subject to a fine not exceeding \$10, with enforcement responsibility falling on the Police Department. This is not an efficient use of county resources and the de minimis amount of the fine does not motivate compliance with the County Code.

This legislation would require that sidewalks be cleared within 24 hours of a winter

**Note: This Legislative and Fiscal Summary provides a synopsis of the legislation as introduced. It does not address subsequent amendments to the legislation.**

weather event. Enforcement will continue to be complaint driven, with I&P responsible for enforcement. If a complaint is made to I&P 24 hours after the end of the weather event, the Department will promptly inspect the site during normal business hours, and, if a violation is found, post a reminder notice in a conspicuous location on the property abutting the sidewalk and allow an additional 24 hours to remove the snow or ice. I&P will then reinspect the site after 24 hours have passed, and if the sidewalk has not been cleared, deem it a violation and post a violation notice in a conspicuous location on the property. DPW may arrange for the removal of the snow and ice at the expense of the owner of the abutting property, and the expenses shall constitute a lien on the property, which shall be collected in the same manner as provided for by law for collection of taxes. A violation of this provision is a Class E civil offense for sidewalks abutting residential property, and a Class D civil offense for sidewalks abutting any other property, with each day that the violation exists constituting a separate offense. The requirement that a sidewalk be cleared within 24 hours following a winter weather event does not apply to residential property if all owners, users, lessees, or occupants are aged 55 or older, and requires I&P to establish a procedure by which persons aged 55 or older may apply to be granted an exemption from the requirements of the Bill.

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this Bill is to revise the complaint and enforcement process and responsibilities for removing snow and ice from county sidewalks after winter weather events

#### **Fiscal Impact**

Please see the Fiscal Note the Budget Office has prepared for an explanation of the fiscal impact of this Bill.

#### **Additional Information**

The Government Relations Office is available to answer any additional questions regarding this Bill. Specific questions should be directed to Lori Blair Klasmeier, Office of Law, Mark Wedemeyer, Department of Inspections & Permits, or Karen Henry, Department of Public Works. Thank you.

cc: Honorable Steuart Pittman, County Executive  
Christine Anderson, Chief Administrative Officer  
Jenny Proebstle, Chief of Staff  
Gregory Swain, County Attorney  
Chris Trumbauer, Budget Officer  
Mark Wedemeyer, Director, Department of Inspections & Permits  
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