



**ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY  
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY AUDITOR**

**To:** Councilmembers, Anne Arundel County Council  
**From:** Office of the County Auditor  
**Date:** October 3, 2025  
**Subject:** County Auditor's Review of Legislation for the October 6, 2025 Council Meeting

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**Bill 67-25: Floodplain  
Management, Erosion  
and Sediment Control,  
and Stormwater  
Management – Clearing  
and Pruning**

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill establishes new regulations for the clearing and pruning of trees, shrubs, and woody vegetation. Specifically, the bill modifies existing definitions and introduces “pruning” as a separate regulated activity with a new tiered approval process for projects within Critical Areas and Forest Conservation Easements. This bill also introduces two new plans to be used in lieu of a grading permit for newly-regulated activities and codifies fees for these new plans.

This bill was introduced on behalf of the Department of Inspections and Permits (I&P) and its effective date is contingent on the approval of the Maryland Critical Area Commission.

**Review of Fiscal Impact**

We are unable to independently validate the Administration's fiscal estimate using the information provided when the bill was submitted. The bill establishes application fees for Standard Grading Plans, Habitat Enhancement Plans, and Vegetation Management Plans. Revenue generated from these fees will be contingent on the volume of applications submitted to I&P for regulated activities. The Administration estimates the total revenue from fees will be \$97,500 per year. Revenue generation may be offset by unanticipated resource needs related to staff training, inspections, and public outreach surrounding new provisions.

*A review of this legislation was also included in the Auditor's Review of Legislation for the September 15, 2025 Council Meeting.*

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**Bill 68-25: Zoning –  
Animal Rescue**

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill defines “animal rescue” and establishes its applicability within the Anne Arundel Zoning Code as a conditional use in various zoning districts. Additionally, it authorizes an animal rescue as a home occupation. This bill was introduced at the request of the Office of Planning and Zoning (OPZ).

**Review of Fiscal Impact**

We concur with the Administration’s Fiscal Note that this bill is not anticipated to have a fiscal impact. The Administration did not provide details with the submission of this bill on how many establishments in the County would be considered an “animal rescue” if it were to pass. This bill is only for the zoning of the property; the bill does not address any business licensing or inspection requirements by the Department of Animal Services.

*A review of this legislation was also included in the Auditor’s Review of Legislation for the September 15, 2025 Council Meeting.*

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**Bill 76-25: Public Safety  
– Sidewalks – Removal  
of Snow and Ice**

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill establishes updated enforcement processes for removing snow and ice from sidewalks in the County after winter weather events to enhance compliance and ensure responsible use of County resources. Specifically, this bill repeals the current snow and ice removal requirements, modifies related violations from a criminal offense to a civil offense, and provides for exemptions to specific populations.

This bill was introduced on behalf of the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Department of Inspections and Permits (I&P).

**Review of Fiscal Impact**

We concur with the Administration's Fiscal Note. The Department of Inspections and Permits possesses the existing capacity to absorb these additional duties with minimal impact on time and resources. While some overtime may be required during severe weather events, overall costs are not expected to increase significantly.

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**Bill 77-25: Personnel –  
Pay Plan – Positions in  
the Classified Service –  
Police Department –**

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill modifies the Classified Service pay plan. Specifically, this legislation removes one LM11 Police Communication

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**Public Ethics – Financial Disclosure**

Operator II position and one OS2 Office Support Assistant I from the Police Department; adds one NR15 Management Assistant I and one OS6 Office Support Specialist to the Police Department; creates the P-5 and P-6 pay grade scales within the classified service, but does not place any positions into those pay grades; and requires that Police Majors (Classified) file financial disclosure statements to the Ethics Commission.

This bill was introduced on behalf of the Office of Personnel.

**Review of Fiscal Impact**

The Office of the County Auditor is unable to independently validate the Administration’s fiscal estimate using the information provided when the bill was submitted. However, we concur that there would be no fiscal impact at this time for creating new pay scales.

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**Bill 80-25: Approval of the Amended and Restated Lease between Anne Arundel County, Maryland and Wiley Bates School LLC**

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill authorizes the Amended and Restated Lease (“Lease”) for part of County-owned property in Annapolis known and designated as Wiley H. Bates High School, Smithville Street, and South Villa Avenue to Wiley Bates School LLC. The same bill (No. 66-24) was introduced and unanimously passed last year, yet the lease was not executed. Modifications to last year’s lease were made for the affordable senior housing, exhibit space, and memorial garden renovation projects, and the term expires 99 years after full execution of the Amended and Restated Lease.

**Review of Fiscal Impact**

The bill has no direct fiscal impact because there is no change to the County services provided for this property. The tenant will continue to be responsible for maintenance and operating expenses of the leased facility, and the County will continue to be responsible for utility connections and provide landscaping services to the property. The County has no plans to fund property improvements at the lease site.

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**Resolution 25-25: Approving the Designation of Certain Areas Near the Glen Burnie (Cromwell) Light Raillink Station as a**

**Summary of Legislation**

The Administration seeks to apply for the State’s “transit-oriented development” designation for the area within a half-mile of the Glen Burnie (Cromwell) Light Raillink Station. The County Executive has approved this action, and this resolution seeks the County Council’s confirmation as required in the

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**Transit-Oriented  
Development**

Charter.

**Review of Fiscal Impact**

We concur with the Administration's Fiscal Note that this resolution has no direct fiscal impact but that implementation of the plan and future development pursuant to changes in land designations could affect County revenues and expenditures.

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