



LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

O-23-24

Parking and Towing Regulations

This summary was prepared by the City of Annapolis Office of Law for use by members of the Annapolis City Council during consideration of the legislation.

BILL SUMMARY

O-23-24 primarily addresses the size of vehicles and trailers that can park on Annapolis streets and the City's ability to tow large vehicles.

- Trailers and trailer-type vehicles can be parked only in permitted areas. For boat trailers, that's boat-launching facilities and only certain areas listed in the City Code: A public street, lane or alley in the area bounded by Rowe 2 Boulevard, Weems Creek, and Severn River; and the City border along the U.S. Naval Academy, to the intersection at Taylor Avenue and Annapolis Street, and Taylor Avenue.
- One significant change is removing the requirement for towing companies to have offices within one mile of the City. This change was prompted by the City's difficulty in finding towing companies near Annapolis willing to tow illegally parked large vehicles, such as semi-trucks and big box trucks.
- The criteria for determining whether a large vehicle is too big to park in Annapolis is shifting from actual weight to Gross Vehicle Weight Rated (GVWR), the maximum loaded weight of a single vehicle. This change aims to simplify the Annapolis Police Department's task of proving a vehicle exceeds the 16,000-pound limit. It's worth noting that existing non-commercial pick-up trucks fall under this limit.

The bill offers a flexible permit system, allowing residents to obtain temporary permits for exceptions, such as delivery and construction trucks, ensuring their needs are met.

- Motor homes cannot be parked on any City public street, lane or alley for more than 48 hours. The current limit is "ten days total within a calendar year."



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DETAILS

Section 7.52.060 - Removes the requirement that towing companies contract with the city to have storage within one mile of the City. Removes the requirement that the City Council act on towing company investigations. It also includes copyediting.

Section 7.52.080—Currently, the Police Department is required in this section to rotate towing companies who are called to assist, and there are limits on how long police wait for the tow to arrive. O-23-24 adds the Department of Transportation to this section's requirements.

Section 7.52.100 - Removes dates section on how towing companies collect fines or bonds. That system is no longer used.

Section 7.52.170 - Removes residency requirement and one-mile limit from the City boundary for towing companies that contract with the City.

Section 12.04.020 - Changes definitions by adding the definitions for Gross Vehicle Weight Rating and "Trailer" and renumbers the chapter's definitions.

Section 12.20.100 - Makes Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) the City standard to determine the weight of vehicles parked on City streets and limits the weight of vehicles to less than 16,000 pounds.

The allowed vehicle length is increased from 246 inches to 276 inches (23 feet) to accommodate standard personal (non-commercial) pickup trucks. The width limit remains unchanged.

Exceptions are allowed if residents obtain a temporary permit from the Department of Public Works for blocking streets or the Department of Transportation for reserved parking spaces.



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Section 12.20.110 - Clarifies where trailers can be parked in Annapolis.

Generally, trailers are not allowed to be parked on City streets. Boat trailers are allowed only in public launching facilities or on streets designed for boat trailers and listed in this section. To park in the city, boat trailers must have valid permits.

Trailers can be parked in municipal parking lots if the vehicle and trailer are under 19 feet. They cannot be parked in a City lot while unattached.

Permit fees must be paid when the application is submitted and are valid for one year starting January 1.

Trailers may be towed, and the owner will be fined if they violate this section.

Section 12.20115 - Changes the time mobile homes can be parked on City streets from ten days during the calendar year to 48 consecutive hours. Mobile homes must also meet the size and weight limits of § 12.20.100.

Sections 7.52.030, 7.52.050, 7.52.070, 7.52.080, 7.52.090, 7.52.120, 7.52.130, 7.52.190 - Copyedited for easier reading.