



Legislative Summary

0-7-25

City Docking for Dinghies and Other Small Vessels

The City of Annapolis Office of Law created this summary for the use of Annapolis City Council members during their consideration of the legislation.

Bill Summary

0-7-25 updates the City Code regarding docking dinghies and other small boats on dinghy docks, street end parks, and other city-owned boat-docking facilities.

- It moves the section dealing with docking dinghies and other small boats under the chapter on "Operation, Anchoring, and Mooring of Vessels in City Waters";
- Allows dinghies and tenders up to 17 feet not just at City Dock's dinghy dock, but at all City dinghy docks;
- Increases the engine size allowed on dinghies and tenders to 95 rather than 25 horsepower;
- Defines "street end park";
- Adds subtitle and general copyediting.



Background

The City Code has inconsistencies regarding the docking of dinghies and tenders on City property, which have developed over many years due to various updates to the Code.

Dinghy & Tender Docking at Ego Alley

The following sign is attached to the Ego Alley dinghy dock.



Permission to dock or moor, which appears authorized by this sign, was once included in the annual Fees Schedule.

"Fees—Vessels up to 17 LOA at all public City Facilities except (1) City Dock slips and bulkheads, (2) Street-end Parks and, (3) City Public Moorings Dinghies to 17 feet. Must demonstrably be in use as a tender to the larger vessel to obtain" - **R-16-19, § 15.10.020**

That 2019 provision also waived docking fees.

Docking fees were introduced in 2020, and that section was removed from the Fees Schedule. However, it was never incorporated into the City Code.

Section 15.10.010, mentioned in the sign, states that anyone docking here needs permission from the Annapolis Harbormaster and must pay the required fees.



Docking at Street Endings, Public Docks, and Private Docks

The City Code section dealing with docking dinghies, tenders and other small motorized boats is under the chapter entitled "*Distressed, Sunken, Damaged, Derelict, Disabled, Neglected or Abandoned Vessels or Property.*"

The section title concerning small boat docking is also confusing: § 15.12.020 - "*Leaving property or vessels on public docks, street ends, or shores, and on private docks or shores without the owner's permission.*"

This section outlines various regulations related to the docking of small boats. Only one requirement out of eight deals with the necessity to obtain permission.

Additionally, the section limits boat sizes at street endings, park docks, public shores, and adjacent properties to a maximum length of "no more than 12 feet." In contrast, the Ego Alley sign (above) sets the size limit for dinghies and tenders at 17 feet.

Details

O-7-25 updates the City Code regarding boat size and motor horsepower adds subtitles and reformats the chapter to make it more searchable and easier to read.

Subsection Details

15.02.030 - Adds a definition of "street end park" and renumbers definition section of Title 15.

15.10.020 - Clarifies that the Fees Schedule is set annually by the City Council.

15.12.035 - Inserts dingy, tender, and small boat docking regulations under Chapter 15.10 - Operation, Anchoring, and Mooring of Vessels in City Waters



15.12.035(B)(3) - Changes the vessel size allowed to dock from no more than 12 feet to up to 17 feet, and increase the size of the engine the boats are allowed to have from 25 horsepower to 95 horsepower.

15.12. 020 - Deletes the current section containing the provisions that would be inserted into § 15.12.035.