

# Legislative Summary

0-2-26

## Mooring Requirements in City Waters

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

**Note:** This summary outlines the legislation as introduced and does not address any amendments.

### Bill Summary

O-2-25 updates the City of Annapolis policy on the use of mooring balls in the City Harbor and other city waters:

- Prohibits moorings within 75 feet of a structure, shore, or another mooring.
- Explains the difference between annual and transient moorings installed in City waters. Both annual and transient moorings are public, not privately owned.
- Allows the Harbormaster to adopt rules and regulations consistent with Title 15 of the City Code as to the types and lengths of vessels that may use any mooring in City waters.

### Background

#### Moorings

Annapolis has both City-owned transient (short-term) moorings and City-owned annual (long-term) moorings. The City sets all the mooring locations.





A mooring is a permanent, fixed structure in the water used to secure a boat, keeping it in a specific location by using a buoy, a chain, and a helical (picture a corkscrew) that secures the mooring to the seabed.

It serves as a stationary parking spot, often used in harbors, lakes, and coastal areas, protecting against wind, current, and waves.



There are waiting lists for the four different mooring areas in the City: Weems Creek, Spa Creek, Back Creek, and the Severn River. Transient moorings are on a first-come, first-served basis.

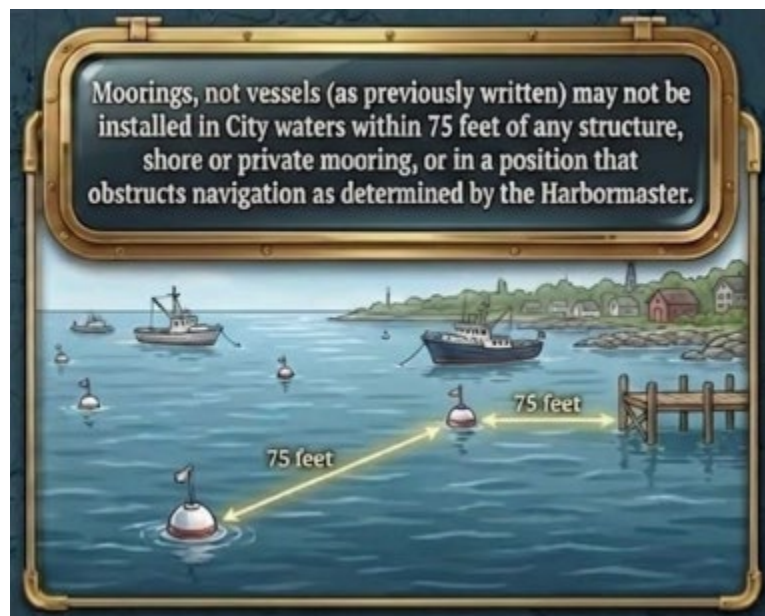
The City Harbormaster oversees the permitting process and enforcement of mooring regulations.



## The Issue

Title 15.10.110 is intended to mandate that all moorings be located at least 75 feet from the shore, any structure, or another mooring.

However, the current language inadvertently makes every vessel secured to a legally installed mooring a violation.



This legislation seeks to correct the ineffective wording, clarify the standard, and ensure that all newly installed moorings adhere to the same requirements as existing ones, thus preserving safe, navigable water.



## Details

### *Section 15.02.030 - Definitions*

1. Updates the definition of "Mooring(s)."
2. Adds a definition for "Annual Mooring."
3. Adds a definition for "Transient Mooring."

### *Section 15.10.110 - Moorings*

This is a rewrite of the entire section dealing with Moorings in Annapolis city waters.

#### **A. Annual Moorings**

- Annual moorings are available only to vessels with valid permits.
- They may not be placed within 75 feet of structures, shorelines, or other moorings, and they must not block navigation as determined by the Harbormaster.
- Only one vessel can be moored on each mooring, but a dinghy under 13 feet can be attached to a larger vessel.

#### **B. Transient Moorings**

- A vessel may moor at a transient mooring in City waters for a maximum of 10 days within any 30-day period as long as the owner or operator has registered the vessel and all people aboard with the Harbormaster and paid the required fees.
- Only one vessel can be moored at a transient mooring, but a dinghy under 13 feet can be tied to a larger vessel.
- Transient moorings cannot be installed within 75 feet of any structures, shores, or private moorings, and must not block navigation as determined by the Harbormaster.