



# Legislative Summary

0-7-26

## *Eliminating the Requirement for Outdoor Dining Patrons to be Seated*

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

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### Bill Summary

O-7-26 amends the Annapolis outdoor dining law, Chapter 7.35 of the City of Annapolis Code, by removing the requirement that patrons be seated at a table to be served alcoholic beverages in licensed outdoor dining areas. The ordinance also modernizes the definition of "outdoor dining" to better reflect the variety of outdoor configurations used by Annapolis restaurants.

### Background

The current city code restricts the service of alcoholic beverages and food in outdoor dining areas to seated patrons only. This restriction limits restaurants and other licensed establishments' ability to operate outdoor areas with standing service arrangements.

### Details

#### **A. Section 7.35.020 – Definitions**

The change in this section repeals two existing definitions and replaces them with a single, consolidated definition of "Outdoor Dining." The previous definition of "Dining," which required food and beverages to be consumed while seated at a table, has been removed entirely. This eliminates the seating requirement from the definition.



## **B. Section 7.35.030 – General Requirements (Alcoholic Beverages)**

The changes in this section modify the outdoor dining standards for serving alcoholic beverages under Section 7.35.030(C)(4)(c). The current rule limits the service of alcohol and food to patrons who are “seated at tables.”

The new language will allow service to patrons not only at outdoor tables but also in designated standing areas within the approved outdoor dining space.