

Proposed Action on Regulations

For information concerning citizen participation in the regulation-making process, see inside front cover.

Symbol Key

- Roman type indicates existing text of regulation.
- *Italic type* indicates proposed new text.
- [Single brackets] indicate text proposed for deletion.

Promulgation of Regulations

An agency wishing to adopt, amend, or repeal regulations must first publish in the Maryland Register a notice of proposed action, a statement of purpose, an estimate of economic impact, an economic impact on small businesses, a notice giving the public an opportunity to comment on the proposal, and the text of the proposed regulations. The opportunity for public comment must be held open for at least 30 days after the proposal is published in the Maryland Register.

Following publication of the proposal in the Maryland Register, 45 days must pass before the agency may take final action on the proposal. When final action is taken, the agency must publish a notice in the Maryland Register. Final action takes effect 10 days after the notice is published, unless the agency specifies a later date. An agency may make changes in the text of a proposal. If the changes are not substantive, these changes are included in the notice of final action and published in the Maryland Register. If the changes are substantive, the agency must repropose the regulations, showing the changes that were made to the originally proposed text.

Proposed action on regulations may be withdrawn by the proposing agency any time before final action is taken. When an agency proposes action on regulations, but does not take final action within 1 year, the proposal is automatically withdrawn by operation of law, and a notice of withdrawal is published in the Maryland Register.

Title 08

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Subtitle 18 BOATING—SPEED LIMITS AND OPERATION OF VESSELS

08.18.01 General

Authority: Natural Resources Article, §8-725.9, Annotated Code of Maryland

Notice of Proposed Action

[26-034-P]

The Secretary of Natural Resources proposes to amend Regulation .04 under **COMAR 08.18.01 General**.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to establish a process to delineate speed zones and restricted areas by public notice for the instances laid out in Natural Resources Article, §8-725.9, Annotated Code of Maryland (2025 Md. Laws, Chap. 433). Natural Resources Article, §8-725.9, Annotated Code of Maryland, allows the Department to establish or alter by public notice an area where vessel movement is controlled, limited, or restricted as designated by the U.S. Coast Guard or another federal agency, or, if the Department determines public safety is at risk and it is contrary to the public interest to delay action, a speed zone near:

- (1) A construction project on or adjacent to State waters;
- (2) A marine event; or
- (3) An accident or other emergent situation.

The proposed action establishes the process for issuing a public notice to implement the statute. The proposed action requires the public notice to be posted on the Department's website a minimum of 24 hours in advance of the effective date. The public notice will also be disseminated through various other media (e.g., social media, email lists, publishing in the Maryland Register, etc.) and buoys will be placed in the area so that an affected individual has a reasonable opportunity to be informed. Creating or modifying speed zones or restricted areas by public notice will allow the Department to better

manage the use of state waters in times of emergency or in response to short-term needs.

Estimate of Economic Impact

The proposed action has no economic impact.

Economic Impact on Small Businesses

The proposed action has minimal or no economic impact on small businesses.

Impact on Individuals with Disabilities

The proposed action has no impact on individuals with disabilities.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Comments may be sent to General - Rules of the Road - Public Notices, Regulatory Staff, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Fishing and Boating Services, 580 Taylor Avenue, E-4, Annapolis, MD 21401, or call 410-260-8300, or email to boatingpubliccomment.dnr@maryland.gov, or complete the comment form at https://dnr.maryland.gov/boating/Pages/regulations/changes_boating.aspx. Comments will be accepted through May 18, 2026. A public hearing has not been scheduled.

.04 Rules of the Road.

A.—B. (text unchanged)

C. *Public Notice.*

(1) *The Secretary may establish or modify speed zones and restricted areas to implement Natural Resources Article, §8-725.9, Annotated Code of Maryland, by issuing a public notice on the Department's website.*

(2) *The public notice shall state its effective hour and date and shall be published on the Department's website at least 24 hours in advance of the effective hour and date.*

(3) *The Secretary shall make a reasonable effort to disseminate a public notice issued under this section through various other media so that an affected individual has a reasonable opportunity to be informed.*

(4) *A violation of the restrictions set by the Secretary in accordance with this section is a violation of this regulation.*

JOSH KURTZ

Secretary of Natural Resources