

## **Ordinance No. 841-25**

An Ordinance Amending to Articles VII, XIV and Attachment 1 of the Development Regulations in Chapter 165 of the Bel Air Town Code

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Town Commissioners is required, under the Land Use Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, to maintain consistency between the Development Regulations and the Town of Bel Air Comprehensive Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, The Land Use Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland provides the authority for the Board of Town Commissioners to adopt planning and zoning controls; and

**WHEREAS**, The Board of Town Commissioners is authorized to adopt planning and zoning controls designed to protect the health, safety and well-being of its citizens which includes the ability of Bel Air residents and visitors to purchase, rent, and shoot guns in a safe and protected environment; and

**WHEREAS**, The Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners wish to update the Development Regulations to add a use category, definition and performance standards for a Shooting Range; and

**WHEREAS**, the changes to Articles VII & XIV and create amendments to the Permitted Use Chart to reflect the Board of Town Commissioners intent; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Board of Town Commissioners that amendments to the Town of Bel Air Development Regulations, Chapter 165, Ordinance No. 841-25, provided for below is hereby adopted:

### **ARTICLE VII Development and Performance Standards**

#### **Section 165-53 Performance standards and development guidelines by use.**

##### **A. Purpose.**

(1) The following standards and guidelines are intended to implement the purpose of the Town's zoning districts as noted in Article III of this Part 2, to promote quality development, to add consistency and predictability to the permit review process, and to reinforce the Town Comprehensive Plan land use goals and objectives. This section not only specifies the performance standards required for the specific uses, but also includes guidelines intended to articulate the community's goals and objectives for new development and redevelopment.

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C. Use category performance standards and guidelines: amusement/entertainment. All amusement/entertainment uses are subject to performance standards and guidelines. These shall be addressed as specified in Subsections **A** and **B** of this section and as listed below:

(1) Performance standards.

(a) The applicant shall identify any hazardous materials or explosive materials that may be stored on site and describe measures to be taken to ensure public safety.

(2) In addition, specific amusement/entertainment uses listed below shall be subject to the following:

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**(d) Shooting Range, Indoor**

**[1] Performance standards.**

**[a] An Indoor Shooting Range building shall not be located closer than three hundred (300) feet to any school, church, or childcare building, exclusive of temporary structures. Such use shall not be located within one hundred (100) feet of any adjoining property which is in an R District.**

**[b] Adequate measures must be taken to ensure that no loaded firearms will be brought into or taken out of the building.**

**[c] The sale, consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages and other controlled substances on the premises is prohibited.**

**[d] The range must be constructed in such a manner as to eliminate danger to persons or property from escaping projectiles.**

**[e] Such use shall be established only after approval by the Board of Appeals of a detailed plan submitted by the applicant setting forth acceptable rules for the operation of the establishment. Such plan shall specify measures related to security, safety, noise, storage of firearms/ammunition, and environmental impacts.**

**[2] Guidelines.**

**[a] The Board of Appeals may impose such conditions and restrictions as it deems necessary to ensure that the use will be compatible with and will not adversely impact adjacent properties and the public. Such conditions and restrictions may include, but need not be limited to, the following:**

**[i] Hours of operation.**

**[ii] Number and qualifications of adult attendants required to be on the premises at all times of operation.**

**[iii] Size and location of the establishment.**

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**ARTICLE XIV Definitions**

**§ 165-103 Purpose.**

This article is intended to clarify the meaning of specific terms used throughout the Town of Bel Air Development Regulations. The meaning and construction of words and phrases defined in this article apply throughout the Development Regulations, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning or construction. Any word or term not defined in this article shall have the ordinarily accepted definition as set forth in the most recent edition of Webster's International Dictionary of the English Language.

**§ 165-104 Terms defined.**

The following definitions shall be used in the interpretation and construction of the Development Regulations:

**SHOOTING RANGE, INDOOR Subject to the provisions of § 165-53.C(2)(d) of this chapter, which may include, as accessory thereto, the sale, on-site rental and/or repair of firearms, ammunition, archery equipment and the like in accordance with and subject to all State and Federal applicable laws, ordinances, and regulations.**

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*165 Attachment 1*

**Permitted Use Tables**

**Table 3-1, Amusement/Entertainment**

Principal permitted uses for specific zoning districts

Use Classification	Zoning Districts							
	R-1	R-2	R-3	R-O	B-1	B-2/B-2A	B-3/B-3A	M-1
Adult entertainment center							SE	
Arena/stadium							P	P
Bowling alley						P	P	P
Amusement center						SD	SD	SD
Banquet facility	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE
Fortune telling							SE	
Ice/roller rink						P	P	P
Microbrewery/winery/distillery						SD	SD	SD
Recreation, indoor						SD	SD	SD
Recreation, outdoor	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
<b>Shooting Range, Indoor</b>							<b>SE</b>	
Smoking lounge							SE	SE
Tavern						SD	SD	SD
Tavern with entertainment						SE	SE	SE
Theater						P	P	P

**KEY:**

"P" indicates permitted subject to applicable code requirements.

"SD" indicates permitted subject to special development regulations, pursuant to Article XII "SE" indicates permitted subject to special exception regulations, pursuant to Article XII.

A blank cell indicates that the use is not permitted.

NOTE: These tables are provided for easy reference. However, the text of Chapter 165, Part 2, should be consulted for further definition and all applicable requirements. In the case of any inconsistencies between the text and the tables, the text shall control.

**BE IT ORDAINED** If any provision of this Ordinance shall be held violative of any applicable law or unenforceable for any reason or *ultra vires*, the invalidity or unenforceability of any such provision shall not invalidate or render unenforceable any other provision hereof, which shall remain in full force and effect.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that this Ordinance shall become effective on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

INTRODUCTION: May 5, 2025

PUBLIC HEARING: June 2, 2025

ENACTMENT:

EFFECTIVE:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

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Paula Etting, Chair  
Board of Town Commissioners

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Michael L. Krantz, Town Clerk