



The Greater Ocean City, Maryland
Chamber of Commerce

Things You Need to Know This Week

Member Notice

Maryland General Assembly Extends Carryout Cocktail Privileges for MD Bars & Restaurants

The House and Senate granted final, last-minute approval to a bill that grants local jurisdictions the power to approve the sale of cocktails and other alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption or delivery.

[Under the bill](#), restaurants and bars would be allowed to sell mixed drinks and cocktails in sealed containers to customers who are also buying food. The bill would allow counties to opt in or out of extending the provisions for another two years beginning July 1. Presently, the provision is set to expire at the end of the state of emergency.

J-1 Exchange Visitors Update and CDC Travel Requirements for People Entering the United States

[Presidential Proclamation 10052](#), which temporarily suspended the entry of certain H-1B, H-2B, J (for certain categories within the Exchange Visitor Program), and L nonimmigrants, expired on March 31, 2021.

Visa applicants who have not yet been interviewed or scheduled for an interview will have their applications prioritized and processed in accordance with existing [Visa Services Operating Status Update](#) guidance. Visa applicants who

were previously refused visas due to the restrictions of Presidential Proclamation 10052 may reapply by submitting a new application including a new fee.

Effective January 26, 2021, the CDC requires all air passengers two years of age and over entering the United States (including U.S. citizens and Legal Permanent Residents) to present a negative COVID-19 test, taken within three (3) calendar days of departure, or proof of recovery from the virus within the last 90 days. For further information, please

visit <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/covid-testing-required-us-entry.html>.

Restaurant Revitalization Fund Grant FAQ and Update

The National Restaurant Association released a new FAQ document for the Restaurant Revitalization Fund. This comprehensive document includes critical updated information about applications, eligibility, and figuring grant amounts.

[Download the FAQ](#)

The Restaurant Association of Maryland (RAM) anticipates the release of an official RRFG application, an informational SBA website, and a program guide next week. Attached [HERE](#) is a *draft, unofficial* sample of an RRFG application that will provide context necessary as you plan for the application opening soon.

A WIN for HOTELS! Industry Allowed One Year Extension for Compliance with Bed Height Requirements

The following email was sent earlier this week from the Maryland Hotel Lodging Association.

A bill introduced at MHLA's request, [SB610](#), passed in the final hour. Pending Governor Hogan's signature, the bill allows a one year extension for compliance with each of the phased in requirements shown below.

Subsection (b): Each accessible room in a lodging establishment shall be furnished with a bed that: (1) measures at least 20 inches but not more than 23

inches high from the floor to the top of the mattress, whether or not the mattress is compressed; and (2) has at least a 7-inch vertical clearance under the bed for lift access.

The schedule has been adjusted as follows:

- Beginning December 31, 2022, at least 25% of the lodging establishment's accessible rooms shall be furnished with a bed that meets the requirements of subsection (b).
- Beginning December 31, 2023, at least 50% of the lodging establishment's accessible rooms shall be furnished with a bed that meets the requirements of subsection (b).
- Beginning December 31, 2024, at least 75% of the lodging establishment's accessible rooms shall be furnished with a bed that meets the requirements of subsection (b).
- Beginning December 31, 2025, each accessible room in a lodging establishment shall be furnished with a bed that meets the requirements of subsection (b).

(Prior to passage of this bill, the first deadline would have taken effect at the end of this year, until reaching full compliance by December 31, 2024.)

Travel Survey – Your Input is Needed

The Transportation Policy Research Group of the National Center for Smart Growth Research, Education (NCSG) at the University of Maryland (UMD) and MDOT seek to understand the transportation experiences of Maryland residents and employees throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Take the 20 minute [Maryland COVID-19 Travel Behavior Survey](#) Share how you would like to return to commuting as it relates to our transportation system.

Shuttered Venue Grant Program Suspended Until Further Notice

The Small Business Administration (SBA) experienced technical difficulties with their grant portal for the scheduled April 8th date. They are still determining an

exact reopening date for the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant application. As soon as it is confirmed, they will provide advance notice. Also, they are updating the applicant user guide and FAQs to further clarify information. Learn more: <https://www.sba.gov/svogrant>

Worcester County Employers: Register for the May 19 Open Air Job Fair

In light of the tremendous need to fill positions in Ocean City and Worcester County, we are holding an Open Air Job Fair in Snow Hill at Sturgis Park Wednesday, May 19, 2021, 10am-2pm. The Park is located along the Pocomoke River.

This event is free for employers to participate and free for job seekers to attend. We just ask that employers sign up, so we are able to assign spots in line with social distancing protocols. Employers may come at 9am to set up. There are a limited number picnic tables at the Park so we encourage you to bring your own table, as well as applications. Please click on the link below to sign up. Include your business name and the positions that you are hiring for.

Please direct any questions to the new Workforce Engagement Specialist Jackie Trieu jtrieu@co.worcester.md.us

[Sign Up for Worcester County Open Air Job Fair 2021](#)

[Open Air Job Fair flyer](#)

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Please contact the Chamber for additional information
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