

Chapter 638

**(House Bill 331)**

AN ACT concerning

**Local Government – Regulation of Amateur Radio Station Antenna Structures**

FOR the purpose of establishing certain requirements that apply to a county or municipal ordinance regulating amateur radio station antenna structures; and generally relating to county or municipal regulation of amateur radio station antenna structures.

BY adding to

Article – Local Government  
Section 1–1317  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2013 Volume and 2021 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article – Local Government**

**1–1317.**

**(A) IN THIS SECTION, “AMATEUR RADIO” MEANS THE USE OF A RADIO FREQUENCY SPECTRUM FOR PURPOSES OF NONCOMMERCIAL EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES, WIRELESS EXPERIMENTATION, SELF–TRAINING, PRIVATE RECREATION, RADIOSPORT, CONTESTING, OR EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION BY A DULY AUTHORIZED PERSON INTERESTED IN RADIOELECTRIC PRACTICE WITH A PURELY PERSONAL AIM AND WITHOUT PECUNIARY INTEREST.**

**(B) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO ALL COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES.**

**(C) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CODIFY THE PROVISIONS OF 47 C.F.R. § 97.15 CONCERNING THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION’S PREEMPTION OF LOCAL ORDINANCES REGULATING AMATEUR RADIO STATION ANTENNA STRUCTURES.**

**(D) A COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE REGULATING AMATEUR RADIO STATION ANTENNA STRUCTURES:**

**(1) MAY NOT PRECLUDE AMATEUR RADIO COMMUNICATIONS;**

**(2) SHALL REASONABLY ACCOMMODATE AMATEUR RADIO COMMUNICATIONS; AND**

**(3) SHALL CONSTITUTE THE MINIMUM PRACTICABLE REGULATION TO ACCOMPLISH THE LEGITIMATE PURPOSE OF THE ORDINANCE.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2022.

**Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 29, 2022.**