

CHAPTER 115, FOREST CONSERVATION SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CODE CHANGES

From the 2009 Session of the General Assembly, Senate Bill 666 Natural Resources – No Net Loss of Forest Policy – Forest Conservation Act requires Carroll County to implement changes to Chapter 115, Forest Conservation of the Carroll County Code of Public Local Laws and Ordinances. Below is a summary of those changes and clarification changes recommended by the staff:

§ 115-2. Applicability: A reduction of the acceptable square footage of forest impact associated with residential development on existing lots of record, linear projects, and intra-family transfers from 40,000 to 20,000. This is addressed in §§ 115-2A(4), 115-2B(7), 115-2B(14), and 115-2B(15).

§ 115-2. Applicability: Changes made to this section which restricts inter-family transfer exemptions to child of the owner only. Current code language includes parent, grandchild, or grandparent of owner. This is addressed in § 115-2B(14).

§ 115-2. Applicability: Changes were made in this section to clarify the linear project exemption. The change reflects projects conducted by a public utility, a municipality, or by the County. This is addressed in § 115-2B(15).

§ 115-2. Applicability: Exemptions no longer apply to approved redevelopment sites that are at least 90% impervious. This is addressed in § 115-2B(16).

§ 115-6. Forest Conservation Plan: Language has been added to the Code to clarify that demonstration to the satisfaction of the County is required for disturbance of priority forests and priority areas prior to approval of the forest conservation plan. This is addressed in § 115-6B(5).

§ 115-7. Retention priorities: Changes are proposed to identify categories of trees, shrubs, and other associated vegetation, and forest resources located in specifically identified sensitive locations which shall be protected from disturbance unless a variance is granted. This is addressed in § 115-7B.

§ 115-18. Annual report: Additions to this section specify the design format for electronic submission of the conserved and planted forested areas; and the form of notification necessary to the Department of Natural Resources on any violations which occur in the County. This is addressed in § 115-18H and I.