

ARTICLE __
Protecting Rights to Short-Term Rentals
(Zoning Bylaw)

PREAMBLE:

Tourism has been a pillar of the Nantucket economy for decades. Generations of Nantucket families have made or supplemented their incomes by welcoming and serving visitors in many ways, including renting their homes. However, a recent Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court decision (*Styller v. Lynnfield*) threatens the ability of Nantucket residents to rent their homes on a short-term basis (stays of less than 30 days). In the *Styller* decision, the state's highest court ruled that zoning bylaws, such as Nantucket's, do not allow short-term rentals in residential zoning areas.

In order to address the impact of the *Styller* decision, this zoning article clearly defines and protects residents' rights to short-term rent their homes. It ensures that Nantucket residents can continue to short-term rent their own property even in residential zoning areas. This article also clearly allows for seasonal residents to short-term rent, while discouraging the conversion of neighborhood homes into purely commercial short-term rental businesses by off-island corporate investors. This article only applies to short-term stays – any rental of one month or longer is not affected.

The purpose of this article is to protect Nantucket homeowners, while also seeking to protect our neighborhoods and housing. We can do that by helping to manage and sustain economic growth and honor our tourism tradition by preserving our community's character.

ARTICLE:

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaws by amending Chapter 139 as follows, and further to authorize the Town Clerk to make non-substantive, ministerial revisions to the numbering of this bylaw in order that it be in compliance with the numbering format of the Code of the Town of Nantucket; or to take any other action relative thereto.

(Original in black with changes shown in red)

§139-2 DEFINITIONS AND WORD USAGE

SHORT TERM RENTAL

Any rental of a residential dwelling unit, or of a bedroom within a dwelling unit, in exchange for payment, as residential accommodations for a duration of less than thirty (30) consecutive days.

§139-15 ACCESSORY USES

In addition to the principal buildings, structures and uses permitted in a district, there shall be allowed in that district as accessory uses, such activities as are subordinate and customarily incident to such permitted uses.

Short-Term Rentals shall be permitted as Accessory Uses in all residential districts (R-1, SR-1, ROH, SOH, R-5, R-5L, R-10, R-10L, SR-10, R-20, SR-20, R-40, VR, LUG-1, LUG-2, LUG-3, MMD) as follows: (1) Residents may use their primary residence for Short-Term Rentals by right; and (2) as of January 1, 2023, non-Residents may use their dwelling units for Short-Term Rentals upon issuance of a Special Permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals upon a finding that the proposed Short-Term Rental is an Accessory Use as defined in this Bylaw. As of January 1, 2023, all other use of Short-Term Rentals in residential districts is prohibited. For the purposes of this provision, a "Resident" is a person whose primary residence is Nantucket as determined by federal tax filings.