



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health

*Larry Hogan, Governor - Boyd R*

and Mental Hygiene

*I, Lt. Governor - Van Mitchell, Secretary*

March 7, 2016

Dear Captain James:

Thank you for your recent letter on February 6, 2016 regarding footwear for patrons in retail establishments. As to updating your website, there has been no changes in Maryland concerning any laws about being barefooted in businesses.

There continues to be no requirement in Maryland Code Annotated, Health General, or in the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 10.15.03 "Food Service Facilities", for patrons of retail food facilities to wear shoes or other footwear. However, as you know, many food service facilities have dress codes or other guidelines that may include requiring footwear. The law and regulations do not limit the facilities from imposing such requirements, and Management has the legal right to refuse service.

I appreciate hearing from you and I thank you for your inquiry, I hope you continue to enjoy coming to Maryland for your work and that you get the pleasure of going barefooted through the many parks, and bike paths throughout the State. If you have further questions, please contact Mr. Alan Taylor, Chief, of the Office of Food Protection at (410) 767-8447.

Sincerely,

Clifford S. Mitchell, MS, MD, MPH  
Director, Environmental Health Bureau

cc: Donna Gugel  
Alan Taylor