

Chapter 45

**(House Bill 121)**

AN ACT concerning

**Criminal Procedure – Charge by Citation – Violation of Condition of Release**

FOR the purpose of altering the designation of a certain crime that a police officer may not charge by citation; and generally relating to criminal citations.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Criminal Procedure  
Section 4–101(a)(1), (2), and (4)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2018 Replacement Volume)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Criminal Procedure  
Section 4–101(c)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2018 Replacement Volume)

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

**Article – Criminal Procedure**

4–101.

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) (i) “Citation” means a written charging document that a police officer or fire marshal issues to a defendant, alleging the defendant has committed a crime.

(ii) “Citation” does not include an indictment, information, or statement of charges.

(4) “Police officer” has the meaning stated in § 2–101 of this article.

(c) (1) (i) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, in addition to any other law allowing a crime to be charged by citation, a police officer shall charge by citation for:

1. any misdemeanor or local ordinance violation that does not carry a penalty of imprisonment;

2. any misdemeanor or local ordinance violation for which the maximum penalty of imprisonment is 90 days or less, except:

A. failure to comply with a peace order under § 3–1508 of the Courts Article;

B. failure to comply with a protective order under § 4–509 of the Family Law Article;

C. violation of a condition of pretrial or posttrial release [while charged with a sexual crime against a minor] under § 5–213.1 of this article;

D. possession of an electronic control device after conviction of a drug felony or crime of violence under § 4–109(b) of the Criminal Law Article;

E. violation of an out-of-state domestic violence order under § 4–508.1 of the Family Law Article; or

F. abuse or neglect of an animal under § 10–604 of the Criminal Law Article; or

3. possession of marijuana under § 5–601 of the Criminal Law Article.

(ii) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, in addition to any other law allowing a crime to be charged by citation, a police officer may charge by citation for:

1. sale of an alcoholic beverage to an underage drinker or intoxicated person under § 6–304, § 6–307, § 6–308, or § 6–309 of the Alcoholic Beverages Article;

2. malicious destruction of property under § 6–301 of the Criminal Law Article, if the amount of damage to the property is less than \$500; or

3. misdemeanor theft under § 7–104(g)(2) of the Criminal Law Article.

(2) A police officer may charge a defendant by citation only if:

(i) the officer is satisfied with the defendant's evidence of identity;

(ii) the officer reasonably believes that the defendant will comply with the citation;

(iii) the officer reasonably believes that the failure to charge on a statement of charges will not pose a threat to public safety;

(iv) the defendant is not subject to arrest for another criminal charge arising out of the same incident; and

(v) the defendant complies with all lawful orders by the officer.

(3) A police officer who has grounds to make a warrantless arrest for an offense that may be charged by citation under this subsection may:

(i) issue a citation in lieu of making the arrest; or

(ii) make the arrest and subsequently issue a citation in lieu of continued custody.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2019.

**Approved by the Governor, April 18, 2019.**