

# SENATE BILL 820

L3

5lr3454

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By: **Senators Watson and Rosapepe**

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2025

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Municipalities – Enforcement of Ordinances and Resolutions**

3 FOR the purpose of increasing the maximum amount of a criminal fine or fine for a  
4 municipal infraction that may be imposed by a municipality to enforce certain  
5 ordinances and resolutions enacted by the municipality; and generally relating to  
6 the enforcement of ordinances and resolutions by a municipality.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

8 Article – Local Government

9 Section 6–101 and 6–102

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2013 Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Local Government**

15 6–101.

16 (a) The legislative body of a municipality may provide that violations of  
17 ordinances and resolutions authorized by this division are punishable as misdemeanors.

18 (b) A penalty for a violation of an ordinance or resolution that is declared to be a  
19 misdemeanor under this section may not exceed imprisonment for 6 months or a fine of  
20 ~~[\$1,000]~~ **\$5,000** or both.

21 (c) Sections 7–504 and 7–505 of the Courts Article shall govern imprisonment in  
22 default of fines and costs.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 6–102.

2 (a) (1) Unless State law classifies a violation as a criminal offense, the  
3 legislative body of a municipality may provide, by law, that a violation of a municipal  
4 ordinance is a municipal infraction.

5 (2) A municipal infraction is a civil offense.

6 (b) The legislative body of a municipality may classify as a municipal infraction:

7 (1) a violation of an ordinance or regulation concerning zoning or land use;  
8 and

9 (2) littering in the municipality as prohibited under § 10–110 of the  
10 Criminal Law Article.

11 (c) (1) A fine not exceeding [~~\$1,000~~] **\$5,000** may be imposed for each  
12 municipal infraction.

13 (2) The fine is payable to the municipality by the person charged in the  
14 citation within 20 calendar days of service of the citation.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
16 October 1, 2025.