

# SENATE BILL 941

R2, R5, R7

5lr3221  
CF 5lr1140

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By: **Senator Sydnor**

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2025

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Transportation-Related Fines and Tolls – Income-Based Installment Payment**  
3 **Plans**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Transportation Authority and the Department  
5 of Transportation to establish programs to offer income-based installment payment  
6 plans for the payment of certain tolls, civil penalties, and fines; and generally  
7 relating to income-based installment payment plans.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

9 Article – Transportation

10 Section 21-1414(d)(5) and (6) and (h)(2), 26-201(c)(1) and (d)(1), and 27-103(a)

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

13 BY adding to

14 Article – Transportation

15 Section 21-1417 and 27-103.1

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

19 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article – Transportation**

21 21-1414.

22 (d) (5) A person alleged to be liable receiving the citation for a toll violation  
23 under this section may:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (i) Pay the video toll and the civil penalty directly to the Authority;  
2 [or]

3 (II) **REQUEST TO PAY THE VIDEO TOLL AND CIVIL PENALTY**  
4 **THROUGH THE INCOME-BASED INSTALLMENT PLAN UNDER § 21-1417 OF THIS**  
5 **SUBTITLE; OR**

6 [(ii)] (III) Elect to stand trial for the alleged violation.

7 (6) (i) If the person alleged to be liable under this section fails to elect  
8 to stand trial or **TO APPEAR AT TRIAL AFTER HAVING ELECTED TO STAND TRIAL,**  
9 **FAILS** to pay the prescribed video toll and civil penalty within 30 days after mailing of the  
10 citation **OR IN ACCORDANCE WITH AN INCOME-BASED INSTALLMENT PAYMENT PLAN**  
11 **APPROVED BY THE AUTHORITY,** or is adjudicated to be liable after trial, [or fails to  
12 appear at trial after having elected to stand trial,] the Authority or its duly authorized  
13 agent may:

14 1. Collect the video toll and the civil penalty by any means of  
15 collection as provided by law; and

16 2. Notify the Administration of the failure to pay the video  
17 toll and civil penalty in accordance with subsection (i) of this section.

18 (ii) No additional hearing or proceeding is required before the  
19 Administration takes action with respect to the motor vehicle of the registered owner under  
20 subsection (i) of this section.

21 (h) (2) The Authority may recall a delinquent account from the Central  
22 Collection Unit if:

23 (i) The delinquent account exceeds \$300 in unpaid video tolls and  
24 associated civil penalties;

25 (ii) The video tolls in question were assessed within a 30-day period;  
26 [and]

27 (iii) Mitigating factors exist with respect to the assessment of the  
28 unpaid video tolls and associated civil penalties, as determined by the Authority; **AND**

29 (IV) **THE AUTHORITY APPROVES AN INCOME-BASED**  
30 **INSTALLMENT PAYMENT PLAN FOR A DELINQUENT ACCOUNT.**

31 **21-1417.**

1           **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**  
2 **INDICATED.**

3                   **(2) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE INCOME–BASED INSTALLMENT PAYMENT**  
4 **PLAN PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION.**

5                   **(3) “VIDEO TOLL” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 21–1414 OF THIS**  
6 **SUBTITLE.**

7           **(B) THE AUTHORITY SHALL ESTABLISH AN INCOME–BASED INSTALLMENT**  
8 **PAYMENT PLAN PROGRAM.**

9           **(C) A PERSON THAT ACCUMULATES UNPAID VIDEO TOLLS AND CIVIL**  
10 **PENALTIES UNDER THIS SUBTITLE OF AT LEAST \$250 MAY APPLY TO PARTICIPATE**  
11 **IN THE PROGRAM.**

12           **(D) IF A PERSON ENTERS INTO AN INCOME–BASED INSTALLMENT PAYMENT**  
13 **PLAN UNDER THIS SECTION AND FAILS TO PAY THE OUTSTANDING VIDEO TOLLS AND**  
14 **CIVIL PENALTIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PAYMENT PLAN, THE AUTHORITY MAY**  
15 **REFER THE AMOUNT OF THE UNPAID VIDEO TOLLS AND CIVIL PENALTIES TO THE**  
16 **CENTRAL COLLECTION UNIT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND**  
17 **MANAGEMENT.**

18           **(E) THE AUTHORITY SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO ESTABLISH:**

19                   **(1) INCOME ELIGIBILITY AND VERIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR**  
20 **THE PROGRAM;**

21                   **(2) THE NUMBER AND TYPE OF INSTALLMENT PAYMENT OPTIONS**  
22 **AVAILABLE UNDER THE PROGRAM;**

23                   **(3) AN APPLICATION PROCESS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE**  
24 **PROGRAM;**

25                   **(4) A PROCESS FOR REPORTING A PERSON WHO FAILS TO MAKE**  
26 **REQUIRED INSTALLMENT PAYMENTS IN A TIMELY MANNER IN ACCORDANCE WITH**  
27 **THE PERSON’S PAYMENT PLAN; AND**

28                   **(5) ANY OTHER REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO ADMINISTER THE**  
29 **PROGRAM.**

30 26–201.

31           (c) A traffic citation issued to a person under this section shall contain:

1 (1) (i) A notice in boldface type that, if the citation is a payable  
2 violation:

3 1. The person must comply with one of the following within  
4 30 days after receipt of the citation:

5 A. Pay the full amount of the preset fine;

6 B. Enter into a payment plan under § 7–504.1 of the Courts  
7 Article, if the defendant has at least \$150 in total outstanding fines and is otherwise  
8 qualified to enter into a payment plan;

9 C. **ENTER INTO AN INCOME–BASED INSTALLMENT**  
10 **PAYMENT PLAN UNDER § 27–103.1 OF THIS ARTICLE, IF THE DEFENDANT HAS AT**  
11 **LEAST \$250 IN TOTAL OUTSTANDING FINES AND IS OTHERWISE QUALIFIED TO**  
12 **ENTER INTO AN INSTALLMENT PAYMENT PLAN;**

13 D. Request a hearing regarding sentencing and disposition in  
14 lieu of a trial as provided in § 26–204(b)(2) of this subtitle; or

15 [D.] E. Request a trial date at the date, time, and place  
16 established by the District Court by writ or trial notice; and

17 2. A. If the person fails to comply within 30 days after  
18 receipt of the citation, the Administration will be notified and may take action to suspend  
19 the person’s driver’s license; and

20 B. Driving on a suspended license is a criminal offense for  
21 which the person could be incarcerated; or

22 (ii) If the citation is for a must–appear violation, a notice that:

23 1. The citation is a summons to appear as notified by a circuit  
24 court or the District Court through a trial notice setting the date, time, and place for the  
25 person to appear; or

26 2. A circuit court or the District Court will issue a writ  
27 setting the date, time, and place for the person to appear;

28 (d) If a citation is marked “you have the right to stand trial”:

29 (1) The form of the defendant’s copy of the citation shall include in boldface  
30 type a description of the following options:

31 (i) Payment of the fine;

1 (ii) Enter into a payment plan under § 7–504.1 of the Courts Article,  
2 if the defendant has at least \$150 in total outstanding fines and is otherwise qualified to  
3 enter into a payment plan;

4 **(III) ENTER INTO AN INCOME–BASED INSTALLMENT PAYMENT**  
5 **PLAN UNDER § 27–103.1 OF THIS ARTICLE, IF THE DEFENDANT HAS AT LEAST \$250**  
6 **IN TOTAL OUTSTANDING FINES AND IS OTHERWISE QUALIFIED TO ENTER INTO AN**  
7 **INSTALLMENT PAYMENT PLAN;**

8 ~~[(iii)]~~ **(IV)** Request a trial; and

9 ~~[(iv)]~~ **(V)** Request a “guilty with an explanation” hearing regarding  
10 sentencing and disposition in lieu of a trial; and

11 27–103.

12 (a) If a person fined under the Maryland Vehicle Law does not pay the fine or  
13 enter into a payment plan under § 7–504.1 of the Courts Article **OR § 27–103.1 OF THIS**  
14 **SUBTITLE**, the court may:

15 (1) Refer the amount of the unpaid outstanding fine to the Central  
16 Collection Unit of the Department of Budget and Management; or

17 (2) Process the unpaid outstanding fine as it would otherwise process  
18 outstanding fines owed the court.

19 **27–103.1.**

20 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “PROGRAM” MEANS THE INCOME–BASED**  
21 **INSTALLMENT PAYMENT PLAN PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION.**

22 **(B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH AN INCOME–BASED**  
23 **INSTALLMENT PAYMENT PLAN PROGRAM.**

24 **(C) A PERSON THAT ACCUMULATES AT LEAST \$250 OF FINES FOR**  
25 **VIOLATIONS OF THE MARYLAND VEHICLE LAW MAY APPLY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE**  
26 **PROGRAM.**

27 **(D) IF A PERSON ENTERS INTO AN INCOME–BASED INSTALLMENT PAYMENT**  
28 **PLAN UNDER THIS SECTION AND FAILS TO PAY THE OUTSTANDING FINES IN**  
29 **ACCORDANCE WITH THE PAYMENT PLAN, THE DEPARTMENT MAY REFER THE**  
30 **AMOUNT OF THE UNPAID OUTSTANDING FINES TO THE CENTRAL COLLECTION UNIT**  
31 **OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT.**

1           **(E) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO ESTABLISH:**

2                   **(1) INCOME ELIGIBILITY AND VERIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR**  
3 **THE PROGRAM;**

4                   **(2) THE NUMBER AND TYPE OF INSTALLMENT PAYMENT OPTIONS**  
5 **AVAILABLE UNDER THE PROGRAM;**

6                   **(3) AN APPLICATION PROCESS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE**  
7 **PROGRAM;**

8                   **(4) A PROCESS FOR REPORTING A PERSON WHO FAILS TO MAKE**  
9 **REQUIRED INSTALLMENT PAYMENTS IN A TIMELY MANNER IN ACCORDANCE WITH**  
10 **THE PERSON'S PAYMENT PLAN; AND**

11                   **(5) ANY OTHER REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO ADMINISTER THE**  
12 **PROGRAM.**

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