

# SENATE BILL 559

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By: **Senator Beidle**

Introduced and read first time: January 25, 2024

Assigned to: Finance

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Business Regulation – Household Goods Movers – Special Fund and Fees**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Household Goods Movers Registration Fund as a  
4 special, nonlapsing fund in the Maryland Department of Labor; requiring that  
5 certain investment earnings be credited to the General Fund; requiring the Secretary  
6 of Labor to annually calculate certain costs; authorizing the Department to set by  
7 regulation certain fees based on certain calculations; prohibiting certain fees from  
8 increasing by more than a certain amount each year; requiring that certain fees in  
9 effect on a certain date shall remain in effect until certain other fees are adopted and  
10 become effective; and generally relating to the Household Goods Movers Registration  
11 Fund.

12 BY adding to  
13 Article – Business Regulation  
14 Section 2–106.15, 2–106.16, and 8.5–105.1  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
18 Article – Business Regulation  
19 Section 8.5–101  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland  
21 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

22 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
23 Article – Business Regulation  
24 Section 8.5–103 and 8.5–105  
25 Annotated Code of Maryland  
26 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 **Article – Business Regulation**

4 **2–106.15.**

5 (A) IN THIS SECTION, “FUND” MEANS THE HOUSEHOLD GOODS MOVERS  
6 REGISTRATION FUND.

7 (B) (1) THERE IS A HOUSEHOLD GOODS MOVERS REGISTRATION FUND  
8 IN THE DEPARTMENT.

9 (2) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT  
10 SUBJECT TO § 7–302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

11 (C) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PAY ALL FEES COLLECTED UNDER  
12 TITLE 8.5 OF THIS ARTICLE TO THE COMPTROLLER.

13 (2) THE COMPTROLLER SHALL DISTRIBUTE THE FEES TO THE FUND.

14 (D) THE FUND SHALL BE USED TO COVER THE ACTUAL DOCUMENTED  
15 DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS OF FULFILLING THE STATUTORY AND REGULATORY  
16 DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT UNDER TITLE 8.5 OF THIS ARTICLE.

17 (E) THE SECRETARY OR A DESIGNEE OF THE SECRETARY SHALL  
18 ADMINISTER THE FUND.

19 (F) THE LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR SHALL AUDIT THE ACCOUNTS AND  
20 TRANSACTIONS OF THE FUND AS PROVIDED IN § 2–1220 OF THE STATE  
21 GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

22 (G) ANY INVESTMENT EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED TO THE  
23 GENERAL FUND OF THE STATE.

24 **2–106.16.**

25 (A) THE SECRETARY SHALL ANNUALLY CALCULATE THE DIRECT AND  
26 INDIRECT COSTS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT UNDER TITLE 8.5 OF THIS  
27 ARTICLE.

28 (B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH FEES BASED ON THE  
29 CALCULATIONS PROVIDED BY THE SECRETARY UNDER THIS SECTION.

1           **(C) EACH FEE ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT UNDER TITLE 8.5 OF**  
2 **THIS ARTICLE MAY NOT BE INCREASED ANNUALLY BY MORE THAN 12.5% OF THE**  
3 **EXISTING AND CORRESPONDING FEES OF THE DEPARTMENT UNDER TITLE 8.5 OF**  
4 **THIS ARTICLE.**

5 8.5–101.

6           (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

7           (b) “Household goods movers” has the meaning stated in § 14–3101 of the  
8 Commercial Law Article.

9           (c) “Household goods moving services” has the meaning stated in § 14–3101 of the  
10 Commercial Law Article.

11 8.5–103.

12 To apply for registration as a household goods mover, an applicant shall:

13           (1) submit to the Department an application on the form provided by the  
14 Department; and

15           (2) pay the Department an application fee [established] SET by the  
16 Department.

17 8.5–105.

18           (a) A household goods mover shall pay an annual registration fee [established]  
19 SET by the Department.

20           (b) On approval of a new or renewal application, the Department shall assign a  
21 unique registration number and issue an annual registration to the applicant.

22           (c) A household goods mover shall retain a copy of its annual registration in each  
23 vehicle used to perform household goods moving services.

24 **8.5–105.1.**

25           **(A) (1) THE DEPARTMENT MAY SET BY REGULATION REASONABLE FEES**  
26 **FOR ITS SERVICES TO CARRY OUT THIS TITLE.**

27           **(2) THE FEES CHARGED SHALL BE:**

28                       **(I) SET SO AS TO PRODUCE FUNDS TO APPROXIMATE THE COST**  
29 **OF MAINTAINING THE DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT UNDER THIS TITLE; AND**

1                   **(II) BASED ON THE CALCULATIONS PERFORMED BY THE**  
2 **SECRETARY UNDER § 2-106.16 OF THIS ARTICLE.**

3           **(B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PUBLISH A SCHEDULE OF FEES SET BY THE**  
4 **DEPARTMENT.**

5           **(C) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PAY ALL FEES COLLECTED UNDER THIS**  
6 **TITLE TO THE COMPTROLLER.**

7                   **(2) THE COMPTROLLER SHALL DISTRIBUTE THE FEES TO THE**  
8 **HOUSEHOLD GOODS MOVERS REGISTRATION FUND ESTABLISHED IN § 2-106.15 OF**  
9 **THIS ARTICLE.**

10           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the fees set forth in Title 8.5  
11 of the Business Regulation Article, in effect on June 30, 2024, shall remain in full force and  
12 effect until the fees authorized by the Maryland Department of Labor under this Act are  
13 adopted and become effective.

14           SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
15 1, 2024.