
By: Charles County Delegation

Introduced and read first time: February 17, 1997

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Charles County - Public Safety False Alarms - Fines**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Board of County Commissioners for Charles County
4 to prohibit certain persons from making repeated false alarms or engaging in
5 patterns of unnecessary or abusive use of certain emergency and public safety
6 services in Charles County; authorizing the imposition of certain fines; requiring the
7 adoption of certain procedures under certain circumstances; requiring the
8 dedication of certain funds to the Response and Communications System of Charles
9 County under certain circumstances; and generally relating to public safety in
10 Charles County.

11 BY adding to

12 The Public Local Laws of Charles County
13 Section 45-1 to be under the new chapter "Chapter 45 False Alarms"
14 Article 9 - Public Local Laws of Maryland
15 (1994 Edition and November 1995 Supplement, as amended)

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

18 **Article 9 - Charles County**

19 CHAPTER 45

20 FALSE ALARMS

21 45-1.

22 A. THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MAY ESTABLISH BY ORDINANCE A
23 PROHIBITION AGAINST ANY PERSON MAKING REPEATED FALSE ALARMS OR
24 ENGAGING IN ANY OTHER PATTERN OF UNNECESSARY OR ABUSIVE USE OF
25 EMERGENCY AND PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES IN THE COUNTY.

26 B. AN ORDINANCE ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS UNDER THIS
27 SECTION SHALL:

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1 (1) ESTABLISH A SCHEDULE OF FINES THAT MAY BE IMPOSED FOR
2 EACH OFFENSE OR SERIES OF OFFENSES ESTABLISHED BY THE COUNTY
3 COMMISSIONERS UNDER THIS SECTION;

4 (2) DESIGNATE THE APPROPRIATE COUNTY AGENCY TO ENFORCE AND
5 ADMINISTER THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE ORDINANCE AND THE ASSESSMENT AND
6 COLLECTION OF FINES;

7 (3) PROVIDE PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC NOTICE OF THE
8 REQUIREMENTS OF AN ORDINANCE ENACTED UNDER THIS SECTION;

9 (4) PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A PUBLIC HEARING FOR AN
10 OFFENDER TO RESPOND TO ALLEGATIONS RELATING TO THE VIOLATION OF THE
11 ORDINANCE; AND

12 (5) REQUIRE THAT ANY FUNDS OBTAINED THROUGH THE IMPOSITION
13 AND COLLECTION OF FINES UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE DEDICATED TO THE
14 RESPONSE AND COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM OF CHARLES COUNTY.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
16 October 1, 1997.