

# HOUSE BILL 261

E2  
HB 280/19 – JUD

0lr2126  
CF 0lr2127

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By: **Delegate Dumais**  
Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2020  
Assigned to: Judiciary

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Procedure – Charging Procedures and Documents – Citation**

3 FOR the purpose of modifying the circumstances under which a police officer is required to  
4 charge by citation; modifying the categories of offenses for which a police officer is  
5 authorized to charge by citation; modifying the circumstances under which a police  
6 officer may charge a defendant by citation; and generally relating to charging  
7 procedures and documents.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
9 Article – Criminal Procedure  
10 Section 4–101(a)  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
14 Article – Criminal Procedure  
15 Section 4–101(c)  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

20 **Article – Criminal Procedure**

21 4–101.

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

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

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (ii) "Citation" does not include an indictment, information, or  
2 statement of charges.

3 (3) "Fire marshal" means:

4 (i) the State Fire Marshal;

5 (ii) a deputy State fire marshal; or

6 (iii) as designated under § 6–304 of the Public Safety Article:

7 1. an assistant State fire marshal; or

8 2. a special assistant State fire marshal.

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

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

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

15 2. any **OTHER** misdemeanor or local ordinance violation **NOT**  
16 **INVOLVING SERIOUS INJURY OR AN IMMEDIATE HEALTH RISK** for which the maximum  
17 penalty of imprisonment is 90 days or less, except:

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

20 B. failure to comply with a protective order under §  
21 4–509 of the Family Law Article;

22 C. violation of a condition of pretrial or posttrial release  
23 under § 5–213.1 of this article;

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

26 E. violation of an out-of-state domestic violence order under  
27 § 4–508.1 of the Family Law Article; or

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



1           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
2   October 1, 2020.