SENATE BILL 847

By: Senator Benson
Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2021
Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Department of Transportation – Vehicle Litter Reporting Program

FOR the purpose of establishing the Vehicle Litter Reporting Program in the Department of Transportation; stating the purpose of the Program; requiring the Program to operate a hotline to receive certain complaints of littering and to send a certain letter to certain motor vehicle owners; defining a certain term; and generally relating to the Vehicle Litter Reporting Program.

BY adding to
Article – Transportation
Section 2–113
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2020 Replacement Volume)

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

Article – Transportation

2–113.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, “PROGRAM” MEANS THE VEHICLE LITTER REPORTING PROGRAM.

(B) THERE IS A VEHICLE LITTER REPORTING PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT.

(C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO DETER LITTERING FROM MOTOR VEHICLES.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
(D) The Program shall:

(1) Establish and operate a toll-free hotline to receive complaints of littering from motor vehicles; and

(2) Send a letter to the registered owner of each motor vehicle about which a complaint of littering is received through the hotline that:

   (I) States that an alleged act of littering was reported against a driver or passenger of the owner’s vehicle;

   (II) Describes the negative effects of littering;

   (III) Includes information about the costs associated with littered highways and the effects of those costs on taxpayers;

   (IV) States that littering is a crime punishable by incarceration, fines, and other penalties; and

   (V) States that the letter itself is not a citation.

SECTION 2. And be it further enacted, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2021.