HOUSE BILL 1435

By: Delegates Arentz, Ghrist, and Jacobs
Introduced and read first time: February 22, 2022
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Transportation – Electronic Toll Collection Backlog – Fee Prohibition

FOR the purpose of prohibiting the Maryland Transportation Authority from charging an administrative fee or a civil penalty for failure to pay certain video tolls until a certain number of days after the Authority has eliminated the toll charge backlog; requiring the Authority to reimburse the registered owner of a motor vehicle that incurred a certain video toll in the amount of any paid administrative fees or civil penalties; applying this Act retroactively; and generally relating to video tolls for which processing was paused or billing was deferred due to certain factors.

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

That:

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

(2) “Authority” means the Maryland Transportation Authority.

(3) “Toll charge backlog” means the tolls for passage of a motor vehicle through a toll collection facility for which processing was paused or billing was deferred due to COVID–19–related or other factors for which the Authority is responsible.

(4) “Video toll” has the meaning stated in § 21–1414 of the Transportation Article.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for a video toll for which processing was paused or billing was deferred due to COVID–19–related factors or factors for which the Authority is responsible, the Authority may not charge an administrative fee or a civil penalty for failure to pay until 180 days after the Authority has eliminated the toll charge backlog.

(c) The Authority shall reimburse the registered owner of a motor vehicle that

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
incurred a video toll for which processing was paused or billing was deferred due to COVID–19–related or other factors for which the Authority is responsible the amount of any administrative fees or civil penalties paid by the registered owner.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be construed to apply retroactively and shall be applied to and interpreted to affect any video toll incurred on or after March 5, 2020, for which processing was paused or billing was deferred due to COVID–19–related or other factors for which the Maryland Transportation Authority is responsible.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three–fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is enacted. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years from the date it is enacted and, at the end of the 2–year period, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.