

# HOUSE BILL 259

D1, R7

4lr0889

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By: **Delegate Chang**

Introduced and read first time: January 12, 2024

Assigned to: Judiciary

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **District Court – Traffic Cases – Surcharges**

3 FOR the purpose of increasing the surcharge the District Court is required to add to any  
4 fine imposed in certain traffic cases; and generally relating to surcharges in traffic  
5 cases.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
7 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings  
8 Section 7–301(a)(1)  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
12 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings  
13 Section 7–301(f)  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

19 7–301.

20 (a) (1) Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection, the  
21 court costs in a traffic case, including parking and impounding cases, cases under §  
22 21–202.1, § 21–809, § 21–810, § 21–1414, or § 24–111.3 of the Transportation Article in  
23 which costs are imposed, and cases under § 10–112 of the Criminal Law Article in which  
24 costs are imposed:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (i) Are \$22.50; and

2 (ii) Shall also be applicable to those cases in which the defendant  
3 elects to waive the defendant's right to trial and pay the fine or penalty deposit established  
4 by the Chief Judge of the District Court by administrative regulation.

5 (f) (1) This subsection does not apply to a traffic case under § 21–202.1, §  
6 21–809, § 21–810, or § 21–1414 of the Transportation Article or to a parking or impounding  
7 case.

8 (2) In a traffic case under subsection (a)(1) of this section the court shall  
9 add a [~~\$7.50~~] **\$9.50** surcharge to any fine imposed by the court.

10 (3) (i) The Comptroller annually shall credit the surcharges collected  
11 under this subsection as provided in this paragraph.

12 (ii) An amount annually as set forth in the State budget shall be  
13 distributed for the Charles W. Riley Firefighter and Ambulance and Rescue Squad Member  
14 Scholarship as established in § 18–603.1 of the Education Article.

15 (iii) An amount annually as set forth in the State budget shall be  
16 distributed to the Maryland State Firemen's Association for the Widows' and Orphans'  
17 Fund.

18 (iv) After the distribution under subparagraphs (ii) and (iii) of this  
19 paragraph, \$200,000 shall be distributed to the Maryland State Firemen's Association.

20 (v) After the distribution under subparagraphs (ii), (iii), and (iv) of  
21 this paragraph and until a total of \$20,000,000 has been distributed to the Volunteer  
22 Company Assistance Fund since the establishment of the surcharge under this subsection,  
23 the remainder shall be credited to the Volunteer Company Assistance Fund to be used in  
24 accordance with the provisions of Title 8, Subtitle 2 of the Public Safety Article.

25 (vi) After a total of \$20,000,000 has been distributed to the Volunteer  
26 Company Assistance Fund, 100% of the remainder shall be credited to the Maryland  
27 Emergency Medical System Operations Fund established under § 13–955 of the  
28 Transportation Article.

29 (vii) On or before September 1 of each year until \$20,000,000 has been  
30 distributed to the Volunteer Company Assistance Fund, the State Court Administrator  
31 shall submit a report to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and the House  
32 Appropriations Committee, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article,  
33 on the amount of revenue distributed to the Volunteer Company Assistance Fund under  
34 this paragraph.

35 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
36 October 1, 2024.