

## Chapter 515

**(House Bill 1293)**

AN ACT concerning

**Baltimore City – Office of the Sheriff – Neighborhood Services Unit**

FOR the purpose of establishing the Neighborhood Services Unit within the Office of the Sheriff of Baltimore City; requiring the Neighborhood Services Unit and the Board of License Commissioners of Baltimore City to work in partnership to enforce the alcoholic beverages laws of Baltimore City and to enter into a memorandum of understanding that specifies the respective roles and responsibilities of the parties *and funding* in connection with the partnership; requiring the Neighborhood Services Unit to perform any other duties as directed by the Sheriff of Baltimore City; expanding the authorized uses of certain revenue to include the work of the Neighborhood Services Unit; and generally relating to the Office of the Sheriff of Baltimore City.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis  
Section 12–101(a) and (b) *and 12–209*  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2024 Replacement Volume)

BY adding to  
Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis  
Section 12–2605  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2024 Replacement Volume)

BY adding to  
Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings  
Section 2–316.1  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings  
Section 7–301(c)(1) and (2)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings  
Section 7–301(c)(3)  
Annotated Code of Maryland

(2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

**Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis**

12–101.

(a) In this title:

(1) except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, the definitions in § 1–101 of this article apply without exception or variation; and

(2) the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) “Board” means the Board of License Commissioners for Baltimore City.

12–209.

The Mayor and City Council shall:

(1) pay from the general fund of the City that includes revenue from the Board the salaries and expenses of the Board and its employees; and

(2) devote the balance of the revenue from the Board to the general purposes of the City.

**12–2605.**

**(A) IN THIS SECTION, “UNIT” MEANS THE NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES UNIT WITHIN THE OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF OF BALTIMORE CITY, AS ESTABLISHED UNDER § 2–316.1 OF THE COURTS ARTICLE.**

**(B) THE BOARD SHALL WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNIT TO ENFORCE THIS TITLE.**

**(C) THE BOARD SHALL ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE UNIT THAT SPECIFIES:**

**(1) THE RESPECTIVE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE PARTNERSHIP DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION; AND**

**(2) IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 12-209 OF THIS TITLE, THE FUNDING SOURCE FOR THE UNIT.**

**Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

**2-316.1.**

**(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.**

**(2) “BOARD” MEANS THE BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS OF BALTIMORE CITY.**

**(3) “UNIT” MEANS THE NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES UNIT WITHIN THE OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF OF BALTIMORE CITY, AS ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.**

**(B) THERE IS A NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES UNIT WITHIN THE OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF OF BALTIMORE CITY.**

**(C) THE UNIT SHALL:**

**(1) WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE BOARD TO ENFORCE THE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES LAWS OF BALTIMORE CITY UNDER TITLE 12 OF THE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND CANNABIS ARTICLE; AND**

**(2) PERFORM ANY OTHER DUTIES AS DIRECTED BY THE SHERIFF OF BALTIMORE CITY.**

**(D) THE UNIT SHALL ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE BOARD THAT SPECIFIES ~~THE~~:**

**(1) THE RESPECTIVE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE PARTNERSHIP DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (C)(1) OF THIS SECTION; AND**

**(2) IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 12-209 OF THE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND CANNABIS ARTICLE, THE FUNDING SOURCE FOR THE UNIT.**

**7-301.**

**(c) (1) The filing fees and costs in a civil case are those prescribed by law subject to modification by law, rule, or administrative regulation.**

(2) The Chief Judge of the District Court shall assess a surcharge that:

(i) May not be more than:

1. \$43 per summary ejectment case; and
2. \$28 per case for all other civil cases; and

(ii) Shall be deposited:

1. For a surcharge assessed under item (i)1 of this paragraph:

A. 45% into the Statewide Rental Assistance Voucher Program established under § 4–2902 of the Housing and Community Development Article;

B. 45% into the Maryland Legal Services Corporation Fund established under § 11–402 of the Human Services Article; and

C. 10% into the Rental Assistance for Community Schools Families Fund established under § 9.9–104.1 of the Education Article; and

2. For a surcharge assessed under item (i)2 of this paragraph, into the Maryland Legal Services Corporation Fund established under § 11–402 of the Human Services Article.

(3) (i) In addition to the surcharge assessed under paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Chief Judge of the District Court shall assess a surcharge that may not be more than \$10 per case for the following cases filed in Baltimore City:

1. Summary ejectment;
2. Tenant holding over;
3. Breach of lease; and
4. Warrant of restitution.

(ii) The revenue generated from the surcharge on filing fees collected by the District Court in Baltimore City under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph shall be:

1. Remitted quarterly to the Baltimore City Director of Finance; and

2. Used to fund the enhancement of sheriff benefits [and], the increase in sheriff personnel to enhance the service of domestic violence orders, AND

**THE WORK OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES UNIT WITHIN THE OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF OF BALTIMORE CITY.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2025.

**Approved by the Governor, May 13, 2025.**