

Chapter 570

(Senate Bill 820)

AN ACT concerning

Municipalities – Enforcement of Ordinances and Resolutions

FOR the purpose of increasing the maximum amount of a criminal fine or fine for a municipal infraction that may be imposed by a municipality to enforce certain ordinances and resolutions enacted by the municipality; and generally relating to the enforcement of ordinances and resolutions by a municipality.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Local Government

Section 6–101 and 6–102

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2013 Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

Article – Local Government

6–101.

(a) The legislative body of a municipality may provide that violations of ordinances and resolutions authorized by this division are punishable as misdemeanors.

(b) A penalty for a violation of an ordinance or resolution that is declared to be a misdemeanor under this section may not exceed imprisonment for 6 months or a fine of **[\$1,000] \$5,000** or both.

(c) Sections 7–504 and 7–505 of the Courts Article shall govern imprisonment in default of fines and costs.

6–102.

(a) (1) Unless State law classifies a violation as a criminal offense, the legislative body of a municipality may provide, by law, that a violation of a municipal ordinance is a municipal infraction.

(2) A municipal infraction is a civil offense.

(b) The legislative body of a municipality may classify as a municipal infraction:

(1) a violation of an ordinance or regulation concerning zoning or land use;
and

(2) littering in the municipality as prohibited under § 10–110 of the Criminal Law Article.

(c) (1) A fine not exceeding **[\$1,000] \$5,000** may be imposed for each municipal infraction.

(2) The fine is payable to the municipality by the person charged in the citation within 20 calendar days of service of the citation.

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

Approved by the Governor, May 13, 2025.