

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 820

(Senators Watson and Rosapepe)

Judicial Proceedings

Municipalities - Enforcement of Ordinances and Resolutions

This bill increases, from \$1,000 to \$5,000, the maximum fine that may be imposed by a municipality for the enforcement of a misdemeanor or municipal infraction, as specified.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: Local government revenues increase to the extent higher fines are imposed for misdemeanors and municipal infractions under the bill. Local government expenditures are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A penalty for a violation of a municipal ordinance or resolution that is a misdemeanor under local law may not exceed six months of imprisonment or a fine of \$1,000 or both.

A municipality may classify as a municipal infraction (1) a violation of an ordinance or regulation concerning zoning and land use and (2) littering in the municipality, as specified. A municipality may impose a fine up to \$1,000 for each municipal infraction. A municipal infraction is a civil offense.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: HB 1506 (Delegate Taylor) - Rules and Executive Nominations.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Maryland Municipal League; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 28, 2025
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