

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

Senate Bill 525

(Senator Charles, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

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**Illegal Dumping and Litter Control Law - Video Evidence and Reward Programs**

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This bill requires each county to establish a program through which members of the public are allowed to submit video evidence of violations of the Illegal Dumping and Litter Control Law to the appropriate enforcement unit within the jurisdiction. Should the video submitted by a member of the public through the program lead to a conviction, they are to receive half the total amount of any fines collected in relation to the violation.

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**Fiscal Summary**

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

**Local Effect:** The bill does not materially affect local operations or finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:**

*Illegal Dumping and Litter Control Law*

A person may not (1) dispose of litter on a highway or perform an act that violates the Maryland Vehicle Laws regarding disposal of litter, glass, and other prohibited substances on highways or (2) dispose, or cause or allow the disposal of, litter on public or private property unless the property is designated by the State, a unit of the State, or a political subdivision for the disposal of litter and the person is authorized by the proper public

authority to use the property, or the litter is placed into a litter receptacle or container installed on the property.

If two or more individuals are occupying a motor vehicle, boat, airplane, or other conveyance from which illegal litter is disposed, and it cannot be determined which occupant is the violator, then (1) if present, the owner of the conveyance is presumed to be responsible for the violation or (2) if the owner of the conveyance is not present, the operator is presumed to be responsible for the violation.

A person who disposes of litter in violation of these provisions in an amount up to 100 pounds or 27 cubic feet and not for commercial gain is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to maximum penalties of imprisonment up to 30 days and/or a fine of \$1,500. A person who disposes of litter in an amount above 100 pounds or 27 cubic feet, but not more than 500 pounds or 216 cubic feet, and not for commercial gain is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to maximum penalties of imprisonment up to one year and/or a fine of \$12,500. A person who disposes of litter in an amount above 500 pounds or 216 cubic feet or in any amount for commercial gain is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to maximum penalties of imprisonment up to five years and/or a fine of \$30,000.

In addition to the incarceration and monetary penalties, a court may order the violator to (1) remove or render harmless the litter disposed of; (2) repair or restore any property damaged by, or pay damages for, the disposal of the litter; (3) perform public service relating to the removal of litter or to the restoration of an area polluted by litter; or (4) reimburse the State, county, municipal corporation, or bi-county unit for its costs incurred in removing the litter.

If a person is convicted of violating a provision of the Illegal Dumping and Litter Control Law using a motor vehicle, the court must notify the Motor Vehicle Administration of the violation.

#### *Collection and Disbursement of Fines*

Fines collected for violations of the Illegal Dumping and Litter Control Law are to be dispersed to the county or municipal corporation where the violation occurred or to the bi-county unit if a bi-county unit is responsible for enforcing the provisions of the law and the violation occurred on property subject to the jurisdiction of the bi-county unit.

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### **Additional Information**

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

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Howard and Prince George's County; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 3, 2025  
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