

HOUSE BILL 246

R4, R5

(PRE-FILED)

6lr0154

CF 6lr0153

By: **Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee (By Request – Departmental – Transportation)**

Requested: September 29, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Video Tolls – Class G (Trailer) Vehicles – Liability**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing that the registered owner of a Class G (trailer) vehicle is
4 liable to the Maryland Transportation Authority for payment of a video toll assessed at
5 the time of passage through a toll collection facility, subject to certain standards and
6 procedures for the transfer of liability; and generally relating to liability for the
7 payment of video tolls.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

9 Article – Transportation

10 Section 13-927(a)(1)

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

14 Article – Transportation

15 Section 21-1414

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

18 (As enacted by Chapters 448 and 460 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2022)

19 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

20 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

21 **Article – Transportation**

22 13-927.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



3 21-1414.

4 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

5 (2) "Authority" means the Maryland Transportation Authority

(3) "Electronic toll collection" means a system in a toll collection facility that is capable of collecting information from a motor vehicle **OR CLASS G (TRAILER) VEHICLE** for use in charging tolls.

9 (4) "Notice of toll due" or "notice" means an administrative notice of a video
10 toll transaction.

11 (5) "Person alleged to be liable" means:

12 (i) The registered owner of a motor vehicle **OR CLASS G (TRAILER)**
13 **VEHICLE** involved in a video toll transaction; or

14 (ii) A person to whom a registered owner of a motor vehicle **OR**
15 **CLASS G (TRAILER) VEHICLE** has transferred liability for a video toll transaction in
16 accordance with this section and the regulations of the Authority.

20 (i) On:

23 2. Videotape; or

24 3. Any other medium; and

25 (ii) Showing either the front or rear of the motor vehicle **OR CLASS**
26 **G (TRAILER) VEHICLE** on at least one image or portion of tape and clearly identifying the
27 **[license] REGISTRATION** plate number and state of the motor vehicle **OR CLASS G**
28 **(TRAILER) VEHICLE.**

(7) "Registered owner" means, with respect to a motor vehicle **OR CLASS G (TRAILER) VEHICLE**, the person or persons designated as the registered owner in the

1 records of the government agency that is responsible for motor vehicle **OR CLASS G**
2 **(TRAILER) VEHICLE** registration.

3 (8) "Toll collection facility" means any point on an Authority highway
4 where a toll is incurred and is required to be paid.

5 (9) "Toll violation" means the failure to pay a video toll within the time
6 prescribed by the Authority in a notice of toll due.

7 (10) "Video monitoring system" means a device installed to work in
8 conjunction with a toll collection facility that produces a recorded image when a video toll
9 transaction occurs.

10 (11) "Video toll" means the amount assessed by the Authority when a video
11 toll transaction occurs.

12 (12) "Video toll transaction" means any transaction in which a motor vehicle
13 **OR CLASS G (TRAILER) VEHICLE** does not or did not pay a toll at the time of passage
14 through a toll collection facility with a video monitoring system.

15 (b) (1) Except as provided in subsection (g) of this section, the registered owner
16 of a motor vehicle **OR CLASS G (TRAILER) VEHICLE** shall be liable to the Authority for
17 payment of a video toll as provided for in the regulations of the Authority.

18 (2) The Authority shall send the registered owner of a motor vehicle **OR**
19 **CLASS G (TRAILER) VEHICLE** that has incurred a video toll a notice of toll due.

20 (3) Except as provided in subsection (g) of this section, the person alleged
21 to be liable who receives a notice of toll due shall have at least 30 days to pay the video toll.

22 (4) To mail the notice of toll due, the Authority shall use:

23 (i) The current mailing address on file with the Administration; or

24 (ii) If a mailing address is unavailable, the current residential
25 address on file with the Administration.

26 (c) (1) Failure of the person alleged to be liable to pay the video toll under a
27 notice of toll due by the date stated on the notice shall constitute a toll violation subject to
28 a civil citation and a civil penalty, which shall be assessed 15 days after the toll violation
29 occurs, as provided for in the regulations of the Authority.

30 (2) A registered owner of a motor vehicle **[shall] OR CLASS G (TRAILER)**
31 **VEHICLE MAY** not be liable for a civil penalty imposed under this section if the operator of
32 the motor vehicle **OR MOTOR VEHICLE TOWING THE CLASS G (TRAILER) VEHICLE** has

1 been convicted of failure or refusal to pay a toll under § 21–1413 of this subtitle for the
2 same violation.

3 (d) (1) (i) The Authority or its duly authorized agent shall send a citation
4 via first-class mail, no later than 60 days after the toll violation, to the person alleged to
5 be liable under this section.

6 (ii) To mail the citation, the Authority or its duly authorized agent
7 shall use:

8 1. The current mailing address on file with the
9 Administration; or

10 2. If a mailing address is unavailable, the current residential
11 address on file with the Administration.

12 (2) Personal service of the citation on the person alleged to be liable shall
13 not be required, and a record of mailing kept in the ordinary course of business shall be
14 admissible evidence of the mailing of the notice of toll due and citation.

15 (3) A citation shall contain:

16 (i) The name and address of the person alleged to be liable under
17 this section;

18 (ii) The [license] REGISTRATION plate number and state of
19 registration of the motor vehicle **OR CLASS G (TRAILER) VEHICLE** involved in the video
20 toll transaction;

21 (iii) The location where the video toll transaction took place;

22 (iv) The date and time of the video toll transaction;

23 (v) The amount of the video toll and the date it was due as stated on
24 the notice of toll due;

25 (vi) A copy of the recorded image;

26 (vii) A statement that the video toll was not paid before the civil
27 penalty was assessed;

28 (viii) The amount of the civil penalty; and

29 (ix) The date by which the video toll and civil penalty must be paid.

30 (4) A citation shall also include:

13 (i) Pay the video toll and the civil penalty directly to the Authority;

14 (ii) Request to pay the video toll and civil penalty through the
15 installment plan under § 21-1417 of this subtitle; or

16 (iii) Elect to stand trial for the alleged violation.

26 (ii) No additional hearing or proceeding is required before the
27 Administration takes action with respect to the motor vehicle **OR CLASS G (TRAILER)**
28 **VEHICLE** of the registered owner under subsection (i) of this section.

29 (e) (1) A certificate alleging that a toll violation occurred and that the video
30 toll payment was not received before the civil penalty was assessed, sworn to or affirmed
31 by a duly authorized agent of the Authority, based upon inspection of a recorded image and
32 electronic toll collection records produced by an electronic toll collection video monitoring
33 system shall be evidence of the facts contained therein and shall be admissible in any
34 proceeding alleging a violation under this section without the presence or testimony of the
35 duly authorized agent who performed the requirements under this section.

(2) The citation, including the certificate, shall constitute *prima facie* evidence of liability for the toll violation and civil penalty.

3 (f) Adjudication of liability under this section:

4 (1) Shall be based upon a preponderance of evidence;

5 (2) May not be deemed a conviction of a registered owner of a motor vehicle
6 **OR CLASS G (TRAILER) VEHICLE** under the [Motor Vehicle Code] **MARYLAND VEHICLE**
7 **LAW**;

8 (3) May not be made part of the registered owner's motor vehicle operating
9 record; and

10 (4) May not be considered in the provision of motor vehicle insurance
11 coverage.

12 (g) (1) If, at the time of a video toll transaction, a motor vehicle **OR CLASS G**
13 **(TRAILER) VEHICLE** is operated by a person other than the registered owner without the
14 express or implied consent of the registered owner, and if the registered owner by the date
15 stated on the notice of toll due provides the Authority or its duly authorized agent with a
16 notarized admission by the person accepting liability which shall include that person's
17 name, address, and driver's license identification number, then the person accepting
18 liability shall be liable under this section and shall be sent a notice of toll due.

22 (h) (1) The Authority may refer a delinquent account for unpaid video tolls and
23 associated civil penalties to the Central Collection Unit for collection.

24 (2) The Authority may recall a delinquent account from the Central
25 Collection Unit if:

26 (i) The delinquent account exceeds \$300 in unpaid video tolls and
27 associated civil penalties;

30 (iii) Mitigating factors exist with respect to the assessment of the
31 unpaid video tolls and associated civil penalties, as determined by the Authority.

32 (3) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, until the Authority refers
33 the debt to the Central Collection Unit or after the Authority has recalled a delinquent
34 account from the Central Collection Unit, the Authority:

35 (i) May waive any portion of the video toll due or civil penalty
36 assessed under this section; and

1 (ii) Shall:

2 1. Waive the civil penalty associated with a video toll on
3 payment of the video toll in accordance with the Authority's Customer Assistance Plan as
4 approved on February 24, 2022; and

5 2. Reimburse any civil penalty paid in error under the Plan.

6 (i) (1) The Administration shall refuse or suspend the registration of a motor
7 vehicle **OR CLASS G (TRAILER) VEHICLE** that incurs a toll violation under this section if:

8 (i) The [Maryland Transportation] Authority notifies the
9 Administration that a registered owner of the motor vehicle **OR CLASS G (TRAILER)**
10 **VEHICLE** has been served with a citation in accordance with this section and has failed to:

11 1. Pay the video toll and the civil penalty for the toll violation
12 by the date specified in the citation; **[and] OR**

13 2. Contest liability for the toll violation by the date identified
14 and in the manner specified in the citation; or

15 (ii) The [Maryland Transportation] Authority or the District Court
16 notifies the Administration that a person who elected to contest liability for a toll violation
17 under this section **[has failed to]**:

18 1. **[Appear] HAS FAILED TO APPEAR** for trial or has been
19 determined to be guilty of the toll violation; and

20 2. **[Pay] HAS FAILED TO PAY** the video toll and civil penalty.

21 (2) In conjunction with the [Maryland Transportation] Authority, the
22 Administration may adopt regulations and develop procedures to carry out the refusal or
23 suspension of a registration under this subsection.

24 (3) The procedures in this subsection are in addition to any other penalty
25 provided by law for a toll violation under this section.

26 (4) This subsection may be applied to enforce a reciprocal agreement
27 entered into by the State and another jurisdiction in accordance with § 21-1415 of this
28 subtitle.

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
30 January 1, 2027.