

HOUSE BILL 600

L2

6lr0800

By: **St. Mary's County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2026

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 7, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **St. Mary's County – Metropolitan Commission**

3 FOR the purpose of increasing the amount of a certain required bond that the Treasurer
4 and any Deputy Treasurer gives to the State of Maryland, the St. Mary's County
5 Metropolitan Commission, and the Commissioners of St. Mary's County;
6 authorizing, instead of requiring, the Metropolitan Commission to conduct certain
7 studies, plans, and estimates and altering the scope of those studies, plans, and
8 estimates; altering certain civil and criminal penalties for certain violations; and
9 generally relating to the St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 The Public Local Laws of St. Mary's County
12 Section 113–2E.(2), 113–5A.(1), and 113–21A. and B.
13 Article 19 – Public Local Laws of Maryland
14 (2007 Edition and April 2025 Supplement, as amended)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
16 The Public Local Laws of St. Mary's County
17 Section 113–21C.(1)
18 Article 19 – Public Local Laws of Maryland
19 (2007 Edition and April 2025 Supplement, as amended)
20 (As enacted by Chapter 599 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2025)

21 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
22 The Public Local Laws of St. Mary's County

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 Section 113–21C.(2)
 2 Article 19 – Public Local Laws of Maryland
 3 (2007 Edition and April 2025 Supplement, as amended)
 4 (As enacted by Chapter 599 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2025)

5 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
 6 The Public Local Laws of St. Mary’s County
 7 Section 113–21C.(3)
 8 Article 19 – Public Local Laws of Maryland
 9 (2007 Edition and April 2025 Supplement, as amended)

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

12 **Article 19 – St. Mary’s County**

13 113–2.

14 E. (2) All moneys deposited shall be protected by a depository bond or by other
 15 securities approved by the Metropolitan Commission. The Treasurer and any Deputy
 16 Treasurer appointed by the Metropolitan Commission shall give bond to the State of
 17 Maryland, the Metropolitan Commission, and the Commissioners of St. Mary’s County to
 18 the amount of [twenty–five] **TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY** thousand dollars [(\$25,000)]
 19 **(\$250,000)** or a greater amount that the Commissioners of St. Mary’s County prescribe,
 20 with a good and sufficient surety, to be approved by the Commissioners of St. Mary’s
 21 County. The bond shall provide, in a form approved by the Maryland Insurance
 22 Administration and the County Attorney, that if the individual giving the bond shall well
 23 and faithfully execute that individual’s office and account to the Metropolitan Commission
 24 for all moneys received on behalf of the Metropolitan Commission without fraud or delay,
 25 the required bond obligation shall be null and void, but shall otherwise remain in full force
 26 and effect. The bond, when approved, shall be recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the
 27 Circuit Court for St. Mary’s County.

28 113–5.

29 A. (1) The Metropolitan Commission [shall] **MAY** cause studies, plans and
 30 estimates to be made for new facilities in those portions of St. Mary’s County **DESIGNATED**
 31 **AS NOT PLANNED FOR SERVICE BY THE ST. MARY’S COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE**
 32 **WATER AND SEWERAGE PLAN**, in which the Metropolitan Commission determines that
 33 the facilities are necessary and [may divide each sanitary district into water and sewerage
 34 districts in such a way as shall], in its judgment, best serve the needs of the various
 35 communities and shall promote convenience and economy of installation and operation.

36 113–21.

37 A. **CRIMINAL PENALTIES.**

1 **(1)** [Unless otherwise provided, any act or omission designated as a] **A**
2 **PERSON WHO VIOLATES ANY OF THE PROVISIONS LISTED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS**
3 **SUBSECTION IS GUILTY OF A** misdemeanor [in the chapter is punishable by] **AND, ON**
4 **CONVICTION, IS SUBJECT TO** a fine of not more than one [hundred] **THOUSAND** dollars
5 **[\$100.00) or confinement] (\$1,000.00) OR IMPRISONMENT** for not more than thirty (30)
6 days [in the county jail,] or both.

7 **(2)** **A PERSON IS SUBJECT TO THE PENALTIES PROVIDED IN**
8 **PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION IF THE PERSON VIOLATES:**

9 **(A)** **SECTION 113-7 OF THIS CHAPTER (LEVY OF TAXES);**

10 **(B)** **SECTION 113-11 OF THIS CHAPTER (PERMITS AND**
11 **REGULATIONS OF USE);**

12 **(C)** **SECTION 113-17 OF THIS CHAPTER (PRIVATELY**
13 **CONSTRUCTED SYSTEMS);**

14 **(D)** **SECTION 113-19 OF THIS CHAPTER (ENTRY INTO**
15 **BUILDINGS); OR**

16 **(E)** **SECTION 113-20 OF THIS CHAPTER (OBSTRUCTIONS).**

17 **(3)** Where [this] **THE** act or omission is of a continuing nature and persists
18 in violation of the provisions of this chapter or of any rule or regulation promulgated under
19 this chapter, a conviction for one (1) offense is not a bar to a conviction for a continuation
20 of the offense subsequent to the first or any succeeding conviction.

21 B. **(1)** The Metropolitan Commission may designate any violation of this
22 chapter as a civil infraction, which shall be enforced as provided in this subsection.

23 **(2)** A Metropolitan Commission employee with the duty of enforcing this
24 chapter may deliver a citation to a person believed to be committing a violation. A copy of
25 the citation shall be retained by the Metropolitan Commission employee and shall bear a
26 certification attesting to the truth of the matters set forth. The citation shall contain:

27 **(A)** The name and address of the person charged;

28 **(B)** The nature of the violation;

29 **(C)** The place and time of the violation;

30 **(D)** The amount of the fine assessed;

1 (E) The manner, location, and time in which the fine may be paid;
2 and

3 (F) The person's right to elect to stand trial for the violation.

4 (3) (A) Except as provided in paragraph (4) of this subsection, [a preset
5 fine, not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100.00), may be imposed for each violation] **ON**
6 **DELIVERY OF A CITATION, THE METROPOLITAN COMMISSION MAY IMPOSE A FINE**
7 **OF:**

8 (I) **FOR A FIRST VIOLATION, TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY**
9 **DOLLARS (\$250.00);**

10 (II) **FOR A SECOND VIOLATION, FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS**
11 **(\$500.00);**

12 (III) **FOR A THIRD VIOLATION, SEVEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY**
13 **DOLLARS (\$750.00); AND**

14 (IV) **FOR A FOURTH OR SUBSEQUENT VIOLATION, ONE**
15 **THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000.00).**

16 (B) **EACH DAY THAT A VIOLATION CONTINUES IS A SEPARATE**
17 **CIVIL INFRACTION SUBJECT TO AN ADDITIONAL CITATION AND A FINE IN THE**
18 **AMOUNT OF TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS (\$250.00).**

19 (C) The Metropolitan Commission may establish a schedule of fines
20 for each violation and may adopt procedures for collection of these fines.

21 (4) (A) A person may not remove water from a public system under the
22 jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Commission without the prior authorization of the
23 Metropolitan Commission.

24 (B) The Metropolitan Commission may impose a fine [not
25 exceeding]:

26 (I) **FOR A FIRST VIOLATION, NOT MORE THAN one**
27 **thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) [for each violation of this paragraph]; AND**

28 (II) **FOR A SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT VIOLATION, NOT**
29 **MORE THAN TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$2,000.00).**

30 (C) The Metropolitan Commission may establish a schedule of fines
31 for each violation of this paragraph based on the amount of water removed and the number
32 of prior violations by a person.

1 (5) A person who receives a citation may elect to stand trial for the offense
2 by filing with the Metropolitan Commission a notice of intention to stand trial. The notice
3 shall be given at least five (5) days before the date of payment as set forth in the citation.
4 On receipt of the notice of intention to stand trial, the Metropolitan Commission shall
5 forward to the district court having venue a copy of the citation and the notice of intention
6 to stand trial. On receipt of the citation, the district court shall schedule the case for trial
7 and notify the defendant of the trial date. All fines, penalties, or forfeitures collected by the
8 district court for violation shall be remitted to the Metropolitan Commission.

9 C. (1) The Metropolitan Commission may utilize administrative enforcement
10 remedies or seek judicial enforcement remedies for a violation of any rules and regulations
11 the Metropolitan Commission may adopt under this chapter concerning public water and
12 sewer use, including lines, and mains, all appurtenances, connections, and discharges into
13 the public sewer systems. The Metropolitan Commission shall establish procedures for
14 implementing the enforcement remedies authorized under this subsection.

15 (2) The Metropolitan Commission may utilize administrative enforcement
16 remedies that may include:

17 (A) A notification of a violation;

18 (B) A consent order;

19 (C) A show cause hearing;

20 (D) A compliance order;

21 (E) A cease and desist order;

22 (F) An administrative fine not to exceed one thousand dollars
23 (\$1,000.00) per violation, per day;

24 (G) An assessment for the reimbursement of actual costs incurred by
25 the Metropolitan Commission, including, but not limited to, time and materials; **[or] AND**

26 (H) An emergency suspension.

27 (3) The Metropolitan Commission may seek the following judicial
28 enforcement remedies:

29 (A) Petitioning the District Court of St. Mary's County for injunctive
30 relief;

31 (B) For a conviction of a violation, requesting civil penalties up to one
32 thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) per violation, per day; or

1 (C) For a conviction of a violation, requesting criminal penalties of
2 not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) per violation, or imprisonment for not more
3 than one (1) year per violation, or both.

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
5 October 1, 2026.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.