

# HOUSE BILL 681

L2

6lr1494  
CF SB 290

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By: **Delegate Lewis (By Request – Baltimore City Administration) and Delegates Addison, Embry, Ruff, and Stinnett**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2026

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 7, 2026

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Baltimore City – Ordinance Enforcement – ~~Amount of Fines and Penalties~~**

3 FOR the purpose of ~~increasing~~ removing the maximum amount that Baltimore City is  
4 authorized to establish for civil and criminal fines and penalties for violating certain  
5 ordinances, rules, or regulations; and generally relating to civil and criminal fines  
6 and penalties for the enforcement of ordinances, rules, or regulations in Baltimore  
7 City.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

9 The Charter of Baltimore City

10 Article II – General Powers

11 Section (48)

12 (2007 Replacement Volume, as amended)

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

14 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **The Charter of Baltimore City**

16 Article II – General Powers

17 The Mayor and City Council of Baltimore shall have full power and authority to  
18 exercise all of the powers heretofore or hereafter granted to it by the Constitution of  
19 Maryland or by any Public General or Public Local Laws of the State of Maryland; and in

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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 particular, without limitation upon the foregoing, shall have power by ordinance, or such  
2 other method as may be provided for in its Charter, subject to the provisions of said  
3 Constitution and Public General Laws:

4 (48)

5 To provide civil and criminal fines and penalties for the violation of any ordinance,  
6 rule or regulations established by the City under or in the execution of any power granted  
7 by this Article II; provided that ~~no fine or penalty shall exceed [\$1000.00] \$5,000.00 and~~  
8 no imprisonment shall be for a longer period than 12 months.

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

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.