

HOUSE BILL 1116

E1, L2

6lr0958

By: **Howard County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2026

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Howard County – Illegal Dumping – Surveillance System Pilot Program**

3 **Ho. Co. 6–26**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing a designated Howard County department to place certain
5 surveillance systems at certain dumping sites in Howard County; requiring the
6 District Court, in consultation with the designated Howard County department, to
7 prescribe a certain citation form; requiring the designated Howard County
8 department to mail a certain citation or warning to the owner of a motor vehicle
9 recorded by a certain surveillance system within a certain time period; providing
10 that a person who receives a certain citation in Howard County may pay a certain
11 civil penalty or elect to stand trial in the District Court; establishing certain defenses
12 to a certain violation in Howard County; prohibiting the Motor Vehicle
13 Administration from registering or transferring the registration of any vehicle
14 captured by a certain surveillance system in Howard County under certain
15 circumstances; and generally relating to the use of surveillance systems at dumping
16 sites in Howard County.

17 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
18 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
19 Section 7–302(a)
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

22 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
23 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
24 Section 7–302(f)
25 Annotated Code of Maryland
26 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

27 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Article – Criminal Law
2 Section 10–110(c)
3 Annotated Code of Maryland
4 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
6 Article – Criminal Law
7 Section 10–112
8 Annotated Code of Maryland
9 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – General Provisions
12 Section 4–322
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
16 Article – Transportation
17 Section 26–305(a)
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

22 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

23 7–302.

24 (a) Except as provided in subsections (b) through (g) of this section, the clerks of
25 the District Court shall:

26 (1) Collect costs, fines, forfeitures, or penalties imposed by the court; and

27 (2) Remit them to the State under a system agreed upon by the Chief Judge
28 of the District Court and the Comptroller.

29 (f) (1) **(I) 1.** A citation issued under § 10–112 of the Criminal Law
30 Article **IN BALTIMORE CITY** shall provide that the person receiving the citation may elect
31 to stand trial by notifying the Baltimore City Department of Public Works of the person’s
32 intention to stand trial at least 5 days prior to the date of payment as set forth in the
33 citation.

34 **2.** On receipt of the notice to stand trial, the Baltimore City
35 Department of Public Works shall forward to the District Court having venue a copy of the

1 citation and a copy of the notice from the person who received the citation indicating the
2 person's intention to stand trial.

3 **3.** On receipt [thereof] **OF THE COPY OF THE CITATION**
4 **AND COPY OF THE NOTICE**, the District Court shall schedule the case for trial and notify
5 the defendant of the trial date under procedures adopted by the Chief Judge of the District
6 Court.

7 **(II) 1.** **A CITATION ISSUED UNDER § 10-112 OF THE**
8 **CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE IN HOWARD COUNTY SHALL PROVIDE THAT THE PERSON**
9 **RECEIVING THE CITATION MAY ELECT TO STAND TRIAL BY NOTIFYING THE DISTRICT**
10 **COURT OF THE PERSON'S INTENTION TO STAND TRIAL AT LEAST 5 DAYS PRIOR TO**
11 **THE DATE OF PAYMENT AS SET FORTH IN THE CITATION.**

12 **2.** **ON RECEIPT OF THE NOTICE, THE DISTRICT COURT**
13 **SHALL SCHEDULE THE CASE FOR TRIAL AND NOTIFY THE DEFENDANT OF THE TRIAL**
14 **DATE UNDER PROCEDURES ADOPTED BY THE CHIEF JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT**
15 **COURT.**

16 (2) A citation issued as a result of the use of a surveillance system shall
17 provide that, in an uncontested case, the penalty shall be paid directly to Baltimore City
18 **OR HOWARD COUNTY, AS APPLICABLE.**

19 (3) Civil penalties collected by the District Court resulting from citations
20 issued as a result of the use of a surveillance system shall be collected in accordance with
21 subsection (a) of this section and distributed to Baltimore City **OR HOWARD COUNTY, AS**
22 **APPLICABLE.**

23 Article – Criminal Law

24 10-110.

25 (c) A person may not:

26 (1) dispose of litter on a highway or perform an act that violates the State
27 Vehicle Laws regarding disposal of litter, glass, and other prohibited substances on
28 highways; or

29 (2) dispose or cause or allow the disposal of litter on public or private
30 property unless:

31 (i) the property is designated by the State, a unit of the State, or a
32 political subdivision of the State for the disposal of litter and the person is authorized by
33 the proper public authority to use the property; or

1 (ii) the litter is placed into a litter receptacle or container installed
2 on the property.

3 10–112.

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

5 (2) “Department” means:

6 (I) **IN BALTIMORE CITY**, the Baltimore City Department of
7 Housing and Community Development, or another department designated by the Mayor of
8 Baltimore City; **OR**

9 (II) **IN HOWARD COUNTY, THE HOWARD COUNTY POLICE**
10 **DEPARTMENT OR OTHER DEPARTMENT DESIGNATED BY THE HOWARD COUNTY**
11 **EXECUTIVE.**

12 (3) “Dumping site” means a location in Baltimore City **OR HOWARD**
13 **COUNTY** that is:

14 (i) owned by the city, **HOWARD COUNTY**, or the State; and

15 (ii) identified by the Department as property that has been
16 repeatedly used for the disposal of litter in violation of State law or a local law or ordinance.

17 (4) (i) “Owner” means the registered owner of a motor vehicle or a
18 lessee of a motor vehicle under a lease of 6 months or more.

19 (ii) “Owner” does not include:

20 1. a motor vehicle rental or leasing company; or

21 2. a holder of a special registration plate issued under Title
22 13, Subtitle 9, Part III of the Transportation Article.

23 (5) “Surveillance image” means an image recorded by a surveillance
24 system:

25 (i) on:

26 1. a photograph;

27 2. a micrograph;

28 3. an electronic image;

1 4. videotape; or

2 5. any other medium;

3 (ii) showing the front or rear of a motor vehicle, and, on at least one
4 image or portion of the tape, clearly identifying the registration plate number of the motor
5 vehicle; and

6 (iii) showing an individual committing a violation of the State illegal
7 dumping and litter control law or a local law or ordinance relating to the unlawful disposal
8 of litter.

9 (6) “Surveillance system” means a collection of one or more cameras located
10 at a dumping site that produces a surveillance image.

11 (b) This section applies to a violation of the State illegal dumping and litter
12 control law or a local law or ordinance relating to the unlawful disposal of litter that occurs
13 at a dumping site monitored by a surveillance system.

14 (c) The Department may:

15 (1) place surveillance systems at dumping sites; and

16 (2) use surveillance images to enforce the provisions of the State illegal
17 dumping and litter control law or a local law or ordinance relating to the unlawful disposal
18 of litter.

19 (d) (1) Unless the individual committing a violation received a citation from a
20 police officer at the time of the violation, the owner of the vehicle used to commit the
21 violation, or in accordance with subsection (g)(4) of this section, the individual committing
22 the violation, is subject to a civil penalty if the violation and the motor vehicle used to
23 commit the violation are recorded on a surveillance image by a surveillance system while
24 the individual is committing a violation of the State illegal dumping and litter control law
25 or a local law or ordinance relating to the unlawful disposal of litter.

26 (2) A civil penalty under this subsection may not exceed \$1,000.

27 (3) For purposes of this section, the District Court, in consultation with the
28 Department, shall prescribe:

29 (i) a uniform citation form consistent with subsection (e)(1) of this
30 section and § 7–302 of the Courts Article; and

31 (ii) a civil penalty, which shall be indicated on the citation, to be paid
32 by persons who choose to prepay the civil penalty without appearing in District Court.

1 (e) (1) Subject to the provisions of paragraphs (2) through (4) of this
2 subsection, the Department shall mail to the owner liable under subsection (d) of this
3 section a citation that shall include:

4 (i) the name and address of the registered owner of the vehicle;

5 (ii) the registration number of the motor vehicle involved in the
6 violation;

7 (iii) the violation charged;

8 (iv) the location where the violation occurred;

9 (v) the date and time of the violation;

10 (vi) a copy of the surveillance image;

11 (vii) the amount of the civil penalty imposed and the date by which
12 the civil penalty must be paid;

13 (viii) a signed statement by a duly authorized agent of the Department
14 that, based on inspection of surveillance images, the motor vehicle was being used by an
15 individual who was committing a violation of the State illegal dumping and litter control
16 law or a local law or ordinance relating to the unlawful disposal of litter;

17 (ix) a statement that surveillance images are evidence of a violation
18 of the State illegal dumping and litter control law or a local law or ordinance relating to the
19 unlawful disposal of litter;

20 (x) information advising the person alleged to be liable under this
21 section of the manner and time in which liability as alleged in the citation may be contested
22 in the District Court; and

23 (xi) information advising the person alleged to be liable under this
24 section that failure to pay the civil penalty or to contest liability in a timely manner:

25 1. is an admission of liability;

26 2. may result in the refusal by the Motor Vehicle
27 Administration to register the motor vehicle; and

28 3. may result in the suspension of the motor vehicle
29 registration.

30 (2) The Department may mail a warning notice instead of a citation to the
31 owner liable under subsection (d) of this section.

1 (3) Except as provided in subsection (g)(4) of this section, the Department
2 may not mail a citation to a person who is not an owner.

3 (4) Except as provided in subsection (g)(4) of this section, a citation issued
4 under this section shall be mailed no later than 2 weeks after the alleged violation.

5 (5) A person who receives a citation under paragraph (1) of this subsection
6 may:

7 (i) pay the civil penalty, in accordance with the instructions on the
8 citation, directly to Baltimore City **OR HOWARD COUNTY, AS APPLICABLE**; or

9 (ii) elect to stand trial in the District Court for the alleged violation.

10 (f) (1) A certificate alleging that a violation of the State illegal dumping and
11 litter control law or a local law or ordinance relating to the unlawful disposal of litter
12 occurred, sworn to or affirmed by a duly authorized agent of the Department, based on
13 inspection of surveillance images produced by a surveillance system, shall be evidence of
14 the facts contained in the certificate and shall be admissible in a proceeding alleging a
15 violation under this section.

16 (2) Adjudication of liability shall be based on a preponderance of the
17 evidence.

18 (g) (1) The District Court may consider in defense of a violation:

19 (i) subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, that:

20 1. the motor vehicle was stolen before the violation occurred
21 and was not under the control or possession of the owner at the time of the violation; or

22 2. the registration plates of the motor vehicle were stolen
23 before the violation occurred and were not under the control or possession of the owner at
24 the time of the violation;

25 (ii) subject to paragraph (3) of this subsection, evidence that the
26 person named in the citation was not the person in the surveillance image committing the
27 violation of the State illegal dumping and litter control law or a local law or ordinance
28 relating to the unlawful disposal of litter; and

29 (iii) any other issues and evidence that the District Court deems
30 pertinent.

31 (2) In order to assert a defense under paragraph (1)(i) of this subsection,
32 the owner shall submit proof that a police report regarding the stolen motor vehicle or
33 registration plates was filed in a timely manner.

1 (b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, a custodian of a
2 surveillance image shall deny inspection of the surveillance image.

3 (c) A custodian shall allow inspection of a surveillance image:

4 (1) by any person issued a citation under § 10–112 of the Criminal Law
5 Article, or by an attorney of record for the person; or

6 (2) by an employee or agent of the Baltimore City Department of Housing
7 and Community Development **OR OF THE HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT**
8 **DESIGNATED UNDER § 10–112 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE** in an investigation or
9 a proceeding relating to the imposition of or indemnification from civil liability under §
10 10–112 of the Criminal Law Article.

11 (d) Notwithstanding subsection (b) of this section, the Baltimore City Department
12 of Housing and Community Development **AND THE HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT**
13 **DESIGNATED UNDER § 10–112 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE** may publicly
14 disseminate a surveillance image as part of an investigation.

15 Article – Transportation

16 26–305.

17 (a) The Administration may not register or transfer the registration of any vehicle
18 involved in a parking violation under this subtitle, a violation under any federal parking
19 regulation that applies to property in this State under the jurisdiction of the U.S.
20 government, a violation of § 21–202(h) of this article as determined under § 21–202.1 of this
21 article or Title 21, Subtitle 8 of this article as determined under § 21–809 or § 21–810 of
22 this article, or a violation of the Illegal Dumping and Litter Control Law under § 10–110 of
23 the Criminal Law Article or a local law or ordinance adopted by Baltimore City **OR**
24 **HOWARD COUNTY** relating to the unlawful disposal of litter as determined under §
25 10–112 of the Criminal Law Article, if:

26 (1) It is notified by a political subdivision or authorized State agency that
27 the person cited for the violation under this subtitle, § 21–202.1, § 21–809, or § 21–810 of
28 this article, or § 10–110 or § 10–112 of the Criminal Law Article has failed to either:

29 (i) Pay the fine for the violation by the date specified in the citation;
30 or

31 (ii) File a notice of his intention to stand trial for the violation;

32 (2) It is notified by the District Court that a person who has elected to stand
33 trial for the violation under this subtitle, under § 21–202.1, § 21–809, or § 21–810 of this
34 article, or under § 10–110 or § 10–112 of the Criminal Law Article has failed to appear for
35 trial; or

1 (3) It is notified by a U.S. District Court that a person cited for a violation
2 under a federal parking regulation:

3 (i) Has failed to pay the fine for the violation by the date specified
4 in the federal citation; or

5 (ii) Either has failed to file a notice of the person's intention to stand
6 trial for the violation, or, if electing to stand trial, has failed to appear for trial.

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
8 1, 2026. It shall remain effective for a period of 5 years and, at the end of June 30, 2031,
9 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and
10 of no further force and effect.