

HOUSE BILL 1116

E1, L2

6lr0958

By: **Howard County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2026

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 3, 2026

CHAPTER _____

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,

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 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
2 Section 7–302(f)
3 Annotated Code of Maryland
4 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

5 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
6 Article – Criminal Law
7 Section 10–110(c)
8 Annotated Code of Maryland
9 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – Criminal Law
12 Section 10–112
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
16 Article – General Provisions
17 Section 4–322
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

20 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
21 Article – Transportation
22 Section 26–305(a)
23 Annotated Code of Maryland
24 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

27 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

28 7–302.

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

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

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

34 (f) (1) **(I) 1.** A citation issued under § 10–112 of the Criminal Law
35 Article **IN BALTIMORE CITY** shall provide that the person receiving the citation may elect
36 to stand trial by notifying the Baltimore City Department of Public Works of the person's

1 intention to stand trial at least 5 days prior to the date of payment as set forth in the
2 citation.

3 **2.** On receipt of the notice to stand trial, the Baltimore City
4 Department of Public Works shall forward to the District Court having venue a copy of the
5 citation and a copy of the notice from the person who received the citation indicating the
6 person's intention to stand trial.

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

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

16 **2. ON RECEIPT OF THE NOTICE, THE DISTRICT COURT**
17 **SHALL SCHEDULE THE CASE FOR TRIAL AND NOTIFY THE DEFENDANT OF THE TRIAL**
18 **DATE UNDER PROCEDURES ADOPTED BY THE CHIEF JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT**
19 **COURT.**

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

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

27 Article – Criminal Law

28 10-110.

29 (c) A person may not:

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

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

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

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

6 10–112.

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

8 (2) “Department” means:

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

12 (II) **IN HOWARD COUNTY, THE HOWARD COUNTY POLICE**
13 **DEPARTMENT OR OTHER DEPARTMENT DESIGNATED BY THE HOWARD COUNTY**
14 **EXECUTIVE.**

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

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

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

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

22 (ii) “Owner” does not include:

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

24 2. a holder of a special registration plate issued under Title
25 13, Subtitle 9, Part III of the Transportation Article.

26 (5) “Surveillance image” means an image recorded by a surveillance
27 system:

28 (i) on:

29 1. a photograph;

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

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

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

7 (ii) the registration number of the motor vehicle involved in the
8 violation;

9 (iii) the violation charged;

10 (iv) the location where the violation occurred;

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

12 (vi) a copy of the surveillance image;

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

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

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

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

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

27 1. is an admission of liability;

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

30 3. may result in the suspension of the motor vehicle
31 registration.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 (2) Adjudication of liability shall be based on a preponderance of the
19 evidence.

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

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

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

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

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

31 (iii) any other issues and evidence that the District Court deems
32 pertinent.

1 (a) In this section, “surveillance image” has the meaning stated in § 10–112 of the
2 Criminal Law Article.

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

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

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

8 (2) by an employee or agent of the Baltimore City Department of Housing
9 and Community Development **OR OF THE HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT**
10 **DESIGNATED UNDER § 10–112 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE** in an investigation or
11 a proceeding relating to the imposition of or indemnification from civil liability under §
12 10–112 of the Criminal Law Article.

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

17 **Article – Transportation**

18 26–305.

19 (a) The Administration may not register or transfer the registration of any vehicle
20 involved in a parking violation under this subtitle, a violation under any federal parking
21 regulation that applies to property in this State under the jurisdiction of the U.S.
22 government, a violation of § 21–202(h) of this article as determined under § 21–202.1 of this
23 article or Title 21, Subtitle 8 of this article as determined under § 21–809 or § 21–810 of
24 this article, or a violation of the Illegal Dumping and Litter Control Law under § 10–110 of
25 the Criminal Law Article or a local law or ordinance adopted by Baltimore City **OR**
26 **HOWARD COUNTY** relating to the unlawful disposal of litter as determined under §
27 10–112 of the Criminal Law Article, if:

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

31 (i) Pay the fine for the violation by the date specified in the citation;

32 or

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

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

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

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

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

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
12 1, 2026. It shall remain effective for a period of 5 years and, at the end of June 30, 2031,
13 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and
14 of no further force and effect.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.