



**Bill: SB820 Municipalities – Enforcement of Ordinances and Resolutions  
Environment and Transportation Committee**

**Position:** Support

The City of Gaithersburg writes to express our strong support for Senate Bill 820, which would increase the maximum fine municipalities can impose from \$1,000 to \$5,000. We believe that the increase will provide important incentives for compliance and appropriate penalties for serious violations.

The increased penalties are necessary to deter violations, protect community resources, and better incent compliance with municipal codes. Fines are established by the City of Gaithersburg not as a primary revenue generator (“taxation by citation”), but to help maintain order and ensure that residents and businesses operate within the boundaries of the law. We believe that the higher amount could lead persons to take the fine more seriously and may also provide municipalities with more leverage to work out resolutions with violators than we have with a smaller fine.

On behalf of the City of Gaithersburg, I respectfully seek your support for SB 820. Thank you for your consideration, and should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 301-466-5350 or our government relations consultant, Therese Hessler, at [therese@ashlargr.com](mailto:therese@ashlargr.com). We appreciate your support.

Respectfully submitted,

Jud Ashman, Mayor  
City of Gaithersburg

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