



Maryland Municipal League
The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

April 1, 2025

Committee: House Environment & Transportation

Bill: SB 820 - Municipalities - Enforcement of Ordinances and Resolutions

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League (“MML”) enthusiastically **supports** Senate Bill 820, which increases the maximum civil and misdemeanor fines that may be imposed by a municipality for the enforcement of a municipal ordinance, resolution, bylaw, or regulation from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

This measure is permissive rather than mandatory, granting municipalities the option to increase fines if they choose. By raising the maximum fines for these civil and misdemeanor offenses by \$4,000 each, the bill has the potential to generate additional revenue for municipalities.

Beyond financial benefits, the increased fine limits serve as a stronger deterrent against potential bad actors. Our members indicate that \$1,000 is not enough to discourage repeat offenders, nor is it sufficient to cover the cost to the municipality to fix some of the applicable offenses like illegal dumping or vandalism.

However, we recognize the significant financial challenges many Marylanders face. Our members consistently indicate that they prefer to resolve these types of issues through community mediation and/or warnings rather than imposing fines, when appropriate. They are confident that any authority to increase fines will be exercised responsibly and not misused.

A similar measure ([HB 501/SB 522](#), 2024) passed with ease last year but was limited to charter counties due to logistical constraints, excluding municipalities. We are grateful to the sponsors and their constituents for advancing this bill this year.

For these reasons, the League respectfully requests that the Committee provide Senate Bill 820 with a **favorable** report. For more information, please contact Angelica Bailey Thupari, Director of Advocacy and Public Affairs, at angelicab@mdmunicipal.org or (443) 756-0071. Thank you for your consideration.

The Maryland Municipal League uses its collective voice to advocate, empower and protect the interests of our 160 local governments members and elevates local leadership, delivers impactful solutions for our communities, and builds an inclusive culture for the 2 million Marylanders we serve.