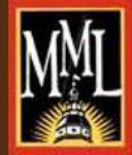




Prince George's County Municipal Association

An Association of 27 Municipalities



March 4, 2025

The Honorable William J. Smith, Chairman
Judicial Proceedings Committee
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Position: Support

Re: SB820 - Municipalities - Enforcement of Ordinances and Resolutions

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. The Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA) writes on behalf of the 27 municipalities that collectively represent more than 955,000 residents, to share our strong support of Senate Bill 820, which would increase the maximum allowable fine from \$1,000 to \$5,000 for violations of municipal ordinances.

This legislation is critically needed to enable more effective enforcement of local ordinances, help maintain clean, safe, and vibrant communities, and provide municipalities with updated enforcement tools that reflect current economic realities and act as meaningful deterrents for serious violations and violators.

Importantly, this bill is enabling legislation that gives municipalities discretion in setting appropriate fines without mandating across-the-board fee increases. It allows for targeted enforcement focused on the most serious violations while mirroring the updated enforcement allowances given for charter counties by this legislature in 2024.

Our member municipalities need modern enforcement tools to address contemporary challenges. The current \$1,000 maximum fine has become inadequate as a deterrent for egregious violations or repeat offenders. Some violators simply view the current fine structure as a "cost of doing business" rather than a meaningful penalty.

This measured increase will help ensure compliance with local ordinances designed to protect public health, safety, and quality of life.

We respectfully urge the Committee to submit a favorable report for Senate Bill 820.

Sincerely,

Jenni Pompei

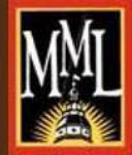
Jenni Pompei

PGCMA Legislative Committee Co-Chair



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Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA) members: Berwyn Heights, Bladensburg, Bowie, Brentwood, Capitol Heights, Cheverly, College Park, Colmar Manor, Cottage City, District Heights, Eagle Harbor, Edmonston, Fairmount Heights, Forest Heights, Glenarden, Greenbelt, Hyattsville, Landover Hills, Laurel, Morningside, Mount Rainier, New Carrollton, North Brentwood, Riverdale Park, Seat Pleasant, University Park, and Upper Marlboro.