

ZEKE COHEN
Council President



100 Holiday Street, Suite 400
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
410-396-4804 • Fax 410-539-0647
council.president@baltimorecity.gov

BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202

February 5, 2026

Honorable Chairs Smith and Guzzone and members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings and Budget & Taxation committees,

I write to you in support of Senate Bill 290, Baltimore City – Ordinance Enforcement – Amount of Fines and Penalties.

In these tough fiscal and financial times, the local autonomy of Baltimore City to levy and collect fees is vital. This legislation would increase, from \$1,000 to \$5,000, the cap on any criminal or civil fine or penalty Baltimore City can levy for violating its laws.

The bill offers more autonomy and revenue generation capacity, thereby better situating the Mayor and City Council to generate revenue not directly reliant upon the state.

As the sponsor of local legislation aligned with this bill, **I urge the committee to vote favorably on this bill.** Please contact my office with any further questions.

CC: Shamoyia Gardiner, Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director