

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 42

(Senator McCray)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Environment and Transportation

Baltimore City - Fines, Fees, and Other Monetary Payments - Methods of
Payment

This bill requires Baltimore City, when collecting fees, fines, or other monetary payments, to accept payment by at least two of the following methods: (1) by mail; (2) in person at a location specified by the city; or (3) online through a city website or other third-party payment system designated by the city. Unless a city resident registers for online payment, all city departments except for the Maryland Department of Transportation must offer to the resident the option of making a payment by mail or in person. The bill's requirements take effect on or before January 1, 2020.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. Baltimore City can implement the bill's requirements with existing budgeted resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Under current law, the methods of payment that Baltimore City is required to accept are not defined.

Background: The Bureau of Revenue Collections in the Baltimore City Department of Finance is responsible for the collection of fees, fines, and payments for various Baltimore City agencies and services. Individuals can make payments to the Bureau of

Revenue Collections by the following methods: (1) online through the bureau's online portal; (2) over the telephone through Baltimore City's payment processing service; (3) in person at Baltimore City's Abel Wolman Municipal Building; or (4) by mail payable to the city's director of finance.

Payments due to some Baltimore City agencies are not processed by the Bureau of Revenue Collections. These agencies include the Baltimore City Department of Transportation, the Parking Authority of Baltimore City, Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks, the Enoch Pratt Free Library, and the Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development. These agencies currently allow persons to make payments in person, by mail, or online.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development; Baltimore City; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 25, 2019
an/tso Third Reader - March 15, 2019
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