

SENATE BILL 847

R2

1lr1784

By: **Senator Benson**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2021

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Transportation – Vehicle Litter Reporting Program**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Vehicle Litter Reporting Program in the Department
4 of Transportation; stating the purpose of the Program; requiring the Program to
5 operate a hotline to receive certain complaints of littering and to send a certain letter
6 to certain motor vehicle owners; defining a certain term; and generally relating to
7 the Vehicle Litter Reporting Program.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Transportation

10 Section 2–113

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2020 Replacement Volume)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
14 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article – Transportation**

16 **2–113.**

17 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “PROGRAM” MEANS THE VEHICLE LITTER**
18 **REPORTING PROGRAM.**

19 **(B) THERE IS A VEHICLE LITTER REPORTING PROGRAM IN THE**
20 **DEPARTMENT.**

21 **(C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO DETER LITTERING FROM MOTOR**
22 **VEHICLES.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(D) THE PROGRAM SHALL:**

2 **(1) ESTABLISH AND OPERATE A TOLL-FREE HOTLINE TO RECEIVE**
3 **COMPLAINTS OF LITTERING FROM MOTOR VEHICLES; AND**

4 **(2) SEND A LETTER TO THE REGISTERED OWNER OF EACH MOTOR**
5 **VEHICLE ABOUT WHICH A COMPLAINT OF LITTERING IS RECEIVED THROUGH THE**
6 **HOTLINE THAT:**

7 **(I) STATES THAT AN ALLEGED ACT OF LITTERING WAS**
8 **REPORTED AGAINST A DRIVER OR PASSENGER OF THE OWNER'S VEHICLE;**

9 **(II) DESCRIBES THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF LITTERING;**

10 **(III) INCLUDES INFORMATION ABOUT THE COSTS ASSOCIATED**
11 **WITH LITTERED HIGHWAYS AND THE EFFECTS OF THOSE COSTS ON TAXPAYERS;**

12 **(IV) STATES THAT LITTERING IS A CRIME PUNISHABLE BY**
13 **INCARCERATION, FINES, AND OTHER PENALTIES; AND**

14 **(V) STATES THAT THE LETTER ITSELF IS NOT A CITATION.**

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
16 October 1, 2021.