

# HOUSE BILL 796

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By: **Delegates T. Branch and Brooks**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2022

Assigned to: Economic Matters

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **For-Hire Driving Services – Return of Property Left in Vehicles**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a taxicab driver and a transportation network operator to  
4 return property of a certain minimum value left in the taxicab or transportation  
5 network operator's motor vehicle to the owner of the property under certain  
6 circumstances; requiring a taxicab driver and a transportation network operator to  
7 deliver any lost property to a certain drop-off location; authorizing a taxicab  
8 company and a transportation network company to charge a fee for returning any  
9 property left inside a taxicab or transportation network operator's motor vehicle; and  
10 generally relating to for-hire driving services.

11 BY adding to  
12 Article – Public Utilities  
13 Section 10–208.1 and 10–404.1  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Public Utilities**

19 **10–208.1.**

20 **(A) A TAXICAB DRIVER SHALL, ON REQUEST OF A PREVIOUS PASSENGER,**  
21 **PROMPTLY RETURN ANY PROPERTY LEFT INSIDE THE TAXICAB TO THAT PASSENGER**  
22 **IF:**

23 **(1) THE TAXICAB DRIVER WAS NOTIFIED WITHIN 2 HOURS AFTER**  
24 **COMPLETING THE RIDE; AND**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(2) THE TOTAL VALUE OF THE LOST PROPERTY EXCEEDS \$100.**

2           **(B) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, A TAXICAB**  
3 **DRIVER SHALL DELIVER ANY LOST PROPERTY FOUND IN THE TAXICAB AT THE END**  
4 **OF THE TAXICAB DRIVER'S SHIFT TO A DROP-OFF LOCATION DESIGNATED BY THE**  
5 **COMMISSION WITHIN THE POLITICAL SUBDIVISION WHERE THE TAXICAB NORMALLY**  
6 **OPERATES.**

7           **(C) (1) THE TAXICAB COMPANY MAY CHARGE A FEE FOR RETURNING ANY**  
8 **PROPERTY LEFT INSIDE A TAXICAB TO A PREVIOUS PASSENGER.**

9           **(2) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A FEE FOR**  
10 **RETURNING ANY PROPERTY LEFT INSIDE A TAXICAB TO A PREVIOUS PASSENGER**  
11 **SHALL BE THE SUM OF:**

12                   **(I) \$15; AND**

13                   **(II) A SET RATE PER MILE, AS APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION.**

14           **(3) A FEE FOR RETURNING ANY PROPERTY LEFT INSIDE A TAXICAB**  
15 **MAY NOT EXCEED \$50.**

16           **(D) SUBJECT TO THE HEARING PROVISIONS OF § 3-102(C) OF THIS ARTICLE,**  
17 **THE COMMISSION MAY IMPOSE ON A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION A CIVIL**  
18 **PENALTY NOT EXCEEDING \$100 FOR EACH VIOLATION.**

19 **10-404.1.**

20           **(A) A TRANSPORTATION NETWORK OPERATOR SHALL, ON REQUEST OF A**  
21 **PREVIOUS PASSENGER, PROMPTLY RETURN ANY PROPERTY LEFT INSIDE THE**  
22 **MOTOR VEHICLE TO THAT PASSENGER IF:**

23                   **(1) THE TRANSPORTATION NETWORK OPERATOR WAS NOTIFIED**  
24 **WITHIN 2 HOURS AFTER COMPLETING THE RIDE; AND**

25                   **(2) THE TOTAL VALUE OF THE LOST PROPERTY EXCEEDS \$100.**

26           **(B) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, A**  
27 **TRANSPORTATION NETWORK OPERATOR SHALL, WHEN THE TRANSPORTATION**  
28 **NETWORK OPERATOR NEXT LOGS OFF OF THE TRANSPORTATION NETWORK,**  
29 **DELIVER ANY LOST PROPERTY FOUND IN THE MOTOR VEHICLE TO A DROP-OFF**

1 LOCATION DESIGNATED BY THE COMMISSION WITHIN THE POLITICAL SUBDIVISION  
2 WHERE THE MOTOR VEHICLE NORMALLY OPERATES.

3 (C) (1) THE TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANY MAY CHARGE A FEE  
4 FOR RETURNING ANY PROPERTY LEFT INSIDE A TRANSPORTATION NETWORK  
5 OPERATOR'S MOTOR VEHICLE TO A PREVIOUS PASSENGER.

6 (2) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A FEE FOR  
7 RETURNING ANY PROPERTY LEFT INSIDE A TRANSPORTATION NETWORK  
8 OPERATOR'S MOTOR VEHICLE TO A PREVIOUS PASSENGER SHALL BE THE SUM OF:

9 (I) \$15; AND

10 (II) A SET RATE PER MILE, AS APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION.

11 (3) A FEE FOR RETURNING ANY PROPERTY LEFT INSIDE A  
12 TRANSPORTATION NETWORK OPERATOR'S MOTOR VEHICLE MAY NOT EXCEED \$50.

13 (D) SUBJECT TO THE HEARING PROVISIONS OF § 3-102(C) OF THIS ARTICLE,  
14 THE COMMISSION MAY IMPOSE ON A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION A CIVIL  
15 PENALTY NOT EXCEEDING \$100 FOR EACH VIOLATION.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
17 October 1, 2022.