

SENATE BILL 266

R2
SB 847/21 – JPR

2lr0720

By: **Senator Benson**

Introduced and read first time: January 17, 2022

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; requiring the Program to operate a hotline to receive complaints
5 of littering from motor vehicles and to send a certain letter to certain motor vehicle
6 owners; and generally relating to the Vehicle Litter Reporting Program.

7 BY adding to

8 Article – Transportation

9 Section 2–113

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Transportation**

15 **2–113.**

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

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

20 **(C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO DETER LITTERING FROM MOTOR**
21 **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, 2022.