

SENATE BILL 947

R1

EMERGENCY BILL

2lr3170
CF 2lr3192

By: **Senator Hershey**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2022

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Transportation – Electronic Toll Collection Backlog – Fee Prohibition**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting the Maryland Transportation Authority from charging an
4 administrative fee or a civil penalty for failure to pay certain video tolls until a
5 certain number of days after the Authority has eliminated the toll charge backlog;
6 requiring the Authority to reimburse the registered owner of a motor vehicle that
7 incurred a certain video toll in the amount of any paid administrative fees or civil
8 penalties; applying this Act retroactively; and generally relating to video tolls for
9 which processing was paused or billing was deferred due to certain factors.

10 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
11 That:

12 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

13 (2) “Authority” means the Maryland Transportation Authority.

14 (3) “Toll charge backlog” means the tolls for passage of a motor vehicle
15 through a toll collection facility for which processing was paused or billing was deferred
16 due to COVID–19–related or other factors for which the Authority is responsible.

17 (4) “Video toll” has the meaning stated in § 21–1414 of the Transportation
18 Article.

19 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for a video toll for which
20 processing was paused or billing was deferred due to COVID–19–related factors or factors
21 for which the Authority is responsible, the Authority may not charge an administrative fee
22 or a civil penalty for failure to pay until 180 days after the Authority has eliminated the
23 toll charge backlog.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (c) The Authority shall reimburse the registered owner of a motor vehicle that
2 incurred a video toll for which processing was paused or billing was deferred due to
3 COVID-19-related or other factors for which the Authority is responsible the amount of
4 any administrative fees or civil penalties paid by the registered owner.

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be construed to
6 apply retroactively and shall be applied to and interpreted to affect any video toll incurred
7 on or after March 5, 2020, for which processing was paused or billing was deferred due to
8 COVID-19-related or other factors for which the Maryland Transportation Authority is
9 responsible.

10 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency
11 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has
12 been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to
13 each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is
14 enacted. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years from the date it is enacted and, at
15 the end of the 2-year period, this Act, with no further action required by the General
16 Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.