

SENATE BILL 559

C2

4lr2004
CF HB 710

By: **Senator Beidle**

Introduced and read first time: January 25, 2024

Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 22, 2024

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Business Regulation – Household Goods Movers – Special Fund and Fees**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Household Goods Movers Registration Fund as a
4 special, nonlapsing fund in the Maryland Department of Labor; requiring that
5 certain investment earnings be credited to the General Fund; requiring the Secretary
6 of Labor to annually calculate certain costs; authorizing the Department to set by
7 regulation certain fees based on certain calculations; prohibiting certain fees from
8 increasing by more than a certain amount each year; requiring that certain fees in
9 effect on a certain date shall remain in effect until certain other fees are adopted and
10 become effective; and generally relating to the Household Goods Movers Registration
11 Fund.

12 BY adding to
13 Article – Business Regulation
14 Section 2–106.15, 2–106.16, and 8.5–105.1
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
18 Article – Business Regulation
19 Section 8.5–101
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

22 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 Article – Business Regulation
2 Section 8.5–103 and 8.5–105
3 Annotated Code of Maryland
4 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

7 **Article – Business Regulation**

8 **2–106.15.**

9 (A) IN THIS SECTION, “FUND” MEANS THE HOUSEHOLD GOODS MOVERS
10 REGISTRATION FUND.

11 (B) (1) THERE IS A HOUSEHOLD GOODS MOVERS REGISTRATION FUND
12 IN THE DEPARTMENT.

13 (2) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT
14 SUBJECT TO § 7–302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

15 (C) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PAY ALL FEES COLLECTED UNDER
16 TITLE 8.5 OF THIS ARTICLE TO THE COMPTROLLER.

17 (2) THE COMPTROLLER SHALL DISTRIBUTE THE FEES TO THE FUND.

18 (D) THE FUND SHALL BE USED TO COVER THE ACTUAL DOCUMENTED
19 DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS OF FULFILLING THE STATUTORY AND REGULATORY
20 DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT UNDER TITLE 8.5 OF THIS ARTICLE.

21 (E) THE SECRETARY OR A DESIGNEE OF THE SECRETARY SHALL
22 ADMINISTER THE FUND.

23 (F) THE LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR SHALL AUDIT THE ACCOUNTS AND
24 TRANSACTIONS OF THE FUND AS PROVIDED IN § 2–1220 OF THE STATE
25 GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

26 (G) ANY INVESTMENT EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED TO THE
27 GENERAL FUND OF THE STATE.

28 **2–106.16.**

1 **(A) THE SECRETARY SHALL ANNUALLY CALCULATE THE DIRECT AND**
2 **INDIRECT COSTS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT UNDER TITLE 8.5 OF THIS**
3 **ARTICLE.**

4 **(B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH FEES BASED ON THE**
5 **CALCULATIONS PROVIDED BY THE SECRETARY UNDER THIS SECTION.**

6 **(C) EACH FEE ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT UNDER TITLE 8.5 OF**
7 **THIS ARTICLE MAY NOT BE INCREASED ANNUALLY BY MORE THAN 12.5% OF THE**
8 **EXISTING AND CORRESPONDING FEES OF THE DEPARTMENT UNDER TITLE 8.5 OF**
9 **THIS ARTICLE.**

10 8.5–101.

11 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

12 (b) “Household goods movers” has the meaning stated in § 14–3101 of the
13 Commercial Law Article.

14 (c) “Household goods moving services” has the meaning stated in § 14–3101 of the
15 Commercial Law Article.

16 8.5–103.

17 To apply for registration as a household goods mover, an applicant shall:

18 (1) submit to the Department an application on the form provided by the
19 Department; and

20 (2) pay the Department an application fee [established] SET by the
21 Department.

22 8.5–105.

23 (a) A household goods mover shall pay an annual registration fee [established]
24 SET by the Department.

25 (b) On approval of a new or renewal application, the Department shall assign a
26 unique registration number and issue an annual registration to the applicant.

27 (c) A household goods mover shall retain a copy of its annual registration in each
28 vehicle used to perform household goods moving services.

29 **8.5–105.1.**

1 (A) (1) THE DEPARTMENT MAY SET BY REGULATION REASONABLE FEES
2 FOR ITS SERVICES TO CARRY OUT THIS TITLE.

3 (2) THE FEES CHARGED SHALL BE:

4 (I) SET SO AS TO PRODUCE FUNDS TO APPROXIMATE THE COST
5 OF MAINTAINING THE DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT UNDER THIS TITLE; AND

6 (II) BASED ON THE CALCULATIONS PERFORMED BY THE
7 SECRETARY UNDER § 2-106.16 OF THIS ARTICLE.

8 (B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PUBLISH A SCHEDULE OF FEES SET BY THE
9 DEPARTMENT.

10 (C) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PAY ALL FEES COLLECTED UNDER THIS
11 TITLE TO THE COMPTROLLER.

12 (2) THE COMPTROLLER SHALL DISTRIBUTE THE FEES TO THE
13 HOUSEHOLD GOODS MOVERS REGISTRATION FUND ESTABLISHED IN § 2-106.15 OF
14 THIS ARTICLE.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the fees set forth in Title 8.5
16 of the Business Regulation Article, in effect on June 30, 2024, shall remain in full force and
17 effect until the fees authorized by the Maryland Department of Labor under this Act are
18 adopted and become effective.

19 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
20 1, 2024.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.