

HOUSE BILL 1293

E4, A2

5lr3407

By: **Delegates Smith, Addison, Embry, and Young**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2025

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Baltimore City – Office of the Sheriff – Neighborhood Services Unit**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Neighborhood Services Unit within the Office of the
4 Sheriff of Baltimore City; requiring the Neighborhood Services Unit and the Board
5 of License Commissioners of Baltimore City to work in partnership to enforce the
6 alcoholic beverages laws of Baltimore City and to enter into a memorandum of
7 understanding that specifies the respective roles and responsibilities of the parties
8 in connection with the partnership; requiring the Neighborhood Services Unit to
9 perform any other duties as directed by the Sheriff of Baltimore City; expanding the
10 authorized uses of certain revenue to include the work of the Neighborhood Services
11 Unit; and generally relating to the Office of the Sheriff of Baltimore City.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
13 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
14 Section 12–101(a) and (b)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2024 Replacement Volume)

17 BY adding to
18 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
19 Section 12–2605
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2024 Replacement Volume)

22 BY adding to
23 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
24 Section 2–316.1
25 Annotated Code of Maryland
26 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

27 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
2 Section 7–301(c)(1) and (2)
3 Annotated Code of Maryland
4 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
6 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
7 Section 7–301(c)(3)
8 Annotated Code of Maryland
9 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

12 **Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis**

13 12–101.

14 (a) In this title:

15 (1) except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, the definitions in §
16 1–101 of this article apply without exception or variation; and

17 (2) the following words have the meanings indicated.

18 (b) “Board” means the Board of License Commissioners for Baltimore City.

19 **12–2605.**

20 (A) IN THIS SECTION, “UNIT” MEANS THE NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES UNIT
21 WITHIN THE OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF OF BALTIMORE CITY, AS ESTABLISHED
22 UNDER § 2–316.1 OF THE COURTS ARTICLE.

23 (B) THE BOARD SHALL WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNIT TO
24 ENFORCE THIS TITLE.

25 (C) THE BOARD SHALL ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
26 WITH THE UNIT THAT SPECIFIES THE RESPECTIVE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
27 OF THE PARTIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE PARTNERSHIP DESCRIBED IN
28 SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.

29 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

30 **2–316.1.**

1 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
2 **INDICATED.**

3 **(2) “BOARD” MEANS THE BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS OF**
4 **BALTIMORE CITY.**

5 **(3) “UNIT” MEANS THE NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES UNIT WITHIN THE**
6 **OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF OF BALTIMORE CITY, AS ESTABLISHED UNDER**
7 **SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.**

8 **(B) THERE IS A NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES UNIT WITHIN THE OFFICE OF**
9 **THE SHERIFF OF BALTIMORE CITY.**

10 **(C) THE UNIT SHALL:**

11 **(1) WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE BOARD TO ENFORCE THE**
12 **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES LAWS OF BALTIMORE CITY UNDER TITLE 12 OF THE**
13 **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND CANNABIS ARTICLE; AND**

14 **(2) PERFORM ANY OTHER DUTIES AS DIRECTED BY THE SHERIFF OF**
15 **BALTIMORE CITY.**

16 **(D) THE UNIT SHALL ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**
17 **WITH THE BOARD THAT SPECIFIES THE RESPECTIVE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**
18 **OF THE PARTIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE PARTNERSHIP DESCRIBED IN**
19 **SUBSECTION (C)(1) OF THIS SECTION.**

20 7-301.

21 (c) (1) The filing fees and costs in a civil case are those prescribed by law
22 subject to modification by law, rule, or administrative regulation.

23 (2) The Chief Judge of the District Court shall assess a surcharge that:

24 (i) May not be more than:

25 1. \$43 per summary ejectment case; and

26 2. \$28 per case for all other civil cases; and

27 (ii) Shall be deposited:

28 1. For a surcharge assessed under item (i)1 of this
29 paragraph:

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1 A. 45% into the Statewide Rental Assistance Voucher
2 Program established under § 4–2902 of the Housing and Community Development Article;

3 B. 45% into the Maryland Legal Services Corporation Fund
4 established under § 11–402 of the Human Services Article; and

5 C. 10% into the Rental Assistance for Community Schools
6 Families Fund established under § 9.9–104.1 of the Education Article; and

7 2. For a surcharge assessed under item (i)2 of this
8 paragraph, into the Maryland Legal Services Corporation Fund established under §
9 11–402 of the Human Services Article.

10 (3) (i) In addition to the surcharge assessed under paragraph (2) of this
11 subsection, the Chief Judge of the District Court shall assess a surcharge that may not be
12 more than \$10 per case for the following cases filed in Baltimore City:

13 1. Summary ejectment;

14 2. Tenant holding over;

15 3. Breach of lease; and

16 4. Warrant of restitution.

17 (ii) The revenue generated from the surcharge on filing fees collected
18 by the District Court in Baltimore City under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph shall be:

19 1. Remitted quarterly to the Baltimore City Director of
20 Finance; and

21 2. Used to fund the enhancement of sheriff benefits [and],
22 the increase in sheriff personnel to enhance the service of domestic violence orders, **AND**
23 **THE WORK OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES UNIT WITHIN THE OFFICE OF THE**
24 **SHERIFF OF BALTIMORE CITY.**

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
26 October 1, 2025.