

# HOUSE BILL 501

L1

4lr2779  
CF 4lr1492

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By: **Delegates Fennell, Harris, Martinez, Patterson, Turner, and Williams**  
Introduced and read first time: January 24, 2024  
Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Charter Counties – Enforcement of Local Laws**

3 FOR the purpose of increasing the maximum amount of a civil or criminal fine that may be  
4 imposed by a charter county to enforce certain local laws enacted by the county; and  
5 generally relating to the enforcement of local laws by a charter county.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
7 Article – Local Government  
8 Section 10–202  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (2013 Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

13 **Article – Local Government**

14 10–202.

15 (a) A county may enact local laws and may repeal or amend any local law enacted  
16 by the General Assembly on any matter covered by the express powers in this title.

17 (b) A county may provide for the enforcement of an ordinance, a resolution, a  
18 bylaw, or a regulation adopted under this title:

19 (1) by civil fines not exceeding [~~\$1,000~~] **\$5,000**; or

20 (2) by criminal fines and penalties not exceeding [~~\$1,000~~] **\$5,000** and  
21 imprisonment not exceeding 6 months.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           (c)     A county may provide for the enforcement of local fair housing laws by fines  
2 or penalties that do not exceed the fines or penalties provided in the federal Fair Housing  
3 Act Amendments of 1988 for enforcement of similar federal fair housing laws.

4           (d)     A county may provide for the enforcement of local employment discrimination  
5 laws or public accommodations discrimination laws by civil fines not exceeding \$5,000 for  
6 any offense.

7           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
8 October 1, 2024.