



# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT


## Office of Audits and Investigations

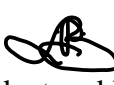
June 22, 2022

### MEMORANDUM

TO: Robert J. Williams, Jr.  
Council Administrator

William M. Hunt  
Deputy Council Administrator

THRU: Josh Hamlin   
Director of Budget and Policy Analysis

FROM: Lavinia A. Baxter   
Senior Legislative Budget and Policy Analyst

RE: Policy and Fiscal Impact Statement  
CB-052-2022 Parking Fines and Penalties

**CB-052-2022** (*Proposed and Presented by:* The Chair (by request – County Executive))

Assigned to Government, Operations and Fiscal Policy (GOFP)

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AN ACT CONCERNING Parking Fines and Penalties. For the purposed of increasing and adding fines and penalties for violating certain parking laws, including laws regarding standing or parking at bus stops, unregistered vehicles and trailers, expired registration stickers; reserved parking spaces, meter spaces, damaging parking meters, and public parking facilities; and authorizing immobilization and/or impoundments without prior notice to owners of vehicles with five or more unpaid traffic and/or parking violations.

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### **Fiscal Summary**

#### **Direct Impact:**

*Expenditures:* None likely.

*Revenues:* Additional revenue from the increase in fines for parking violations could amount to approximately \$1.37 million per year.

**Indirect Impact:**

None likely.

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**Legislative Summary**

CB-052-2022, proposed by the Chair at the request of the County Executive was presented on Tuesday, May 31, 2022 and referred to the Government, Operations and Fiscal Policy Committee (GOFP). The bill is proposed to raise parking fines and penalties across seven (7) violation categories and adds language for one new violation related to charging stations. More specifically, section 26-145 adds penalty language for parking in a public space where the operator has two or more unpaid parking fines more than ninety (90) days of the date of the violation. Section 127.05 proposes new language prohibiting standing or parking in public stalls or spaces reserved for charging electric vehicles where proper signage is posted.

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**Resource Personnel**

Anthony Poteat, Chief Operating Officer, Revenue Authority of Prince George’s County

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**Current Law/Background**

Parking fines and penalties are listed in the County Code under Subtitle 26, Division 8 & 11, Sections 26-127, 26-129, 26-133, 26-145, 26-163 and 26-166. These fines and fees have not been increased in many years and are relatively low compared to surrounding jurisdictions. While over the year many County fees, including permit fees have been raised, parking fines have remained flat. Those proposed in CB -52 fall into seven categories including standing or parking at bus stops, parking of unregistered vehicles, reserved parking spaces, parking meters, and public parking facilities.

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**Discussion/Policy Analysis**

CB-52 is an attempt to raise current fines and strengthen penalties relating to various parking violations. The intent is to make these fines punitive and bring about a greater compliance with the parking ordinance. Authority Among the largest increase in fines proposed, is the increase of seventy-five dollars (\$75), from twenty-five dollars (\$25) to one-hundred dollars (\$100), for damaging County property by destroying a parking meter. The table below summarizes the proposed changes in fines.

VIOLATION	CODE	FINE	PROPOSED FINE
Bus Stop	26-127.B	\$20	\$50
Damaging Meter	26-133	\$25	\$100
Meter	26-132.A	\$25	\$35
Overtime	26-145.A.6	\$20	\$35
Reserved	26-129	\$25	\$35
Unattended	26-145.A.9	\$20	\$35
Undesignated	26-145.A.3	\$20	\$50

Currently the County’s fines and fees are on *average* half of those on the books in surrounding jurisdictions. Raising these fines would bring the County in line with our neighboring jurisdictions and provide greater weight to the penalties currently in the law. The table below is a summary of general parking fines in neighboring jurisdictions.

Jurisdiction	Parking Violation
Montgomery County	\$50
Anne Arundel County	\$35
Baltimore County	\$35
Baltimore City	\$35
Alexandria, Virginia	\$40
Arlington, Virginia	\$40

Additionally, this bill adds language to strengthen penalties in four sections:

- **Division 11, section 26-145(c)** adds language for the violation of parking in a public parking facility for a period longer than 24 hours pursuant to section (a)(6) and is subject to a fifty dollar (\$50) fine.
- **Division 15, section 26-163.02(a)** strengthens the penalties for vehicles parking on a public street or parking facility owned and operated by the Revenue Authority or the County with two or more outstanding violations *older than ninety (90) days of the date of notice of violation may be impounded.*
- **Division 18, section 26-166** - In this section “Impoundment without prior notice” proposed language penalizes operators/vehicles that have five or more outstanding traffic or parking violations notices.
- **Division 8 section 26-127.05** adds a brand-new section, “**Reserved Parking for electric vehicles**” recognizing the designation of reserved parking for charging electric vehicles. With this language, persons standing or parking in these reserved areas are subject to a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100) for each violation.

Data provided by the Revenue Authority and shown in the tables below, shows parking violations from January 2021 to May 2022.

**JANUARY 2021- DECEMBER 2021**

VIOLATIONS	# CITATIONS ISSUED	\$ DOLLAR AMOUNT
BUS STOP	1,847	\$36,740.00
UNREGISTERED VEHICLE	1,593	\$95,040.00
UNREGISTERED VEHICLE (R)	9,069	\$881,100.00
RESERVED	190	\$4,525.00
METERS	22,748	\$560,800.00
DAMAGING METERS	0	0
RESERVED EV CHARGING STATION	0	0

**JANUARY 2022- MAY 2022**

VIOLATIONS	# CITATIONS ISSUED	\$ DOLLAR AMOUNT
BUS STOP	544	\$10,840.00
UNREGISTERED VEHICLE	6,238	\$372,360.00
UNREGISTERED VEHICLE (R)	5,013	\$500,300.00
RESERVED	123	\$3,000.00
METERS	10,690	\$264,875.00
DAMAGING METERS	0	0
RESERVED EV CHARGING STATION	0	0

In keeping with the trend for violations incurred during the first two years of the pandemic, many violations have increased in the last several months as parking facilities have increased in use. As the table shows above shows, revenues from fines have increased in every category except bus stop violations. As mentioned, damage to meters and reserved EV Charging stations are new violation categories.

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**Fiscal Impact**

- *Direct Impact:*

Enactment of CB-052-2022 is likely to have a favorable fiscal impact on the County in that the increase in fines and penalties will generate more revenue to the County. Using the data from violations in 2021, potential annual revenue impact, not including the two new proposed violations for damaging meters and reserved EV charging station is approximately \$1,369,995 before the Authority’s management fee.

- *Indirect Impact:*

None likely.

*Appropriated in the Current Fiscal Year Budget:*

No.

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**Effective Date of Proposed Legislation**

The proposed Act will take effect forty-five (45) calendar days after it becomes law.

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If you require additional information, or have questions about this fiscal impact statement, please call me.