

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 08-0255  
(First Reader)**

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Introduced by: Councilmembers Kraft, Cole, Henry, D'Adamo, Curran, Conaway, Clarke

Introduced and read first time: December 4, 2008

Assigned to: Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Police Department, Department of Finance

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **Taxicabs and Other Common Carriers – Refusal to Pay Fare**

3 FOR the purpose of increasing the penalty for wilful refusal to pay proper charges for transport in  
4 a taxicab or other common carrier; and correcting, conforming, and clarifying related  
5 language.

6 BY repealing and reordaining, with amendments

7 Article 19 - Police Ordinances

8 Section(s) 52-2

9 Baltimore City Code

10 (Edition 2000)

11 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the  
12 Laws of Baltimore City read as follows:

13 **Baltimore City Code**

14 **Article 19. Police Ordinances**

15 **Subtitle 52. Taxicabs**

16 **§ 52-1. Refusal to pay fare.**

17 (a) *Prohibited conduct*[; *penalties*].

18 [Any] IT IS UNLAWFUL FOR ANY person who engages and accepts transportation in a  
19 [public] taxicab or other vehicle operated as a common carrier[, under any conditions  
20 whereby a charge therefor is not paid in advance, and who] TO wilfully [refuses] REFUSE  
21 to pay the proper charges at the conclusion of [such] THE transportation[, shall be deemed  
22 guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be subject to a fine of not  
23 more than \$50 for each such offense].

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

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1 (b) *Special arrangements allowed.*

2 [Nothing in this] THIS section [shall be construed to] DOES NOT prevent the owner or  
3 operator of [any such] THE TAXICAB OR OTHER common carrier from [making a special  
4 agreement] ARRANGING with the person who engaged and accepted transportation[,] for  
5 [the] subsequent payment of THE charges due.

6 (C) *PENALTIES.*

7 ANY PERSON WHO VIOLATES A PROVISION OF THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR  
8 AND, ON CONVICTION, IS SUBJECT TO A FINE OF \$250 FOR EACH OFFENSE.

9 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That the catchlines contained in this Ordinance  
10 are not law and may not be considered to have been enacted as a part of this or any prior  
11 Ordinance.

12 **SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That this Ordinance takes effect on the 30<sup>th</sup> day  
13 after the date it is enacted.