



<b>FROM</b>	NAME & TITLE	Rebecca Woods, Esq., Executive Director 	<b>CITY OF BALTIMORE</b>  <b>MEMO</b>	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Environmental Control Board 1 N. Charles Street, Suite 1300		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill # 18-0196 Environmental Citations – Default Penalty		

DATE:

**TO**

The Honorable President and Members  
of the Baltimore City Council

April 23, 2018

The Baltimore City Environmental Control Board (ECB) proposed Council Bill #18-0196, Environmental Citations – Default Penalty, and is in complete support of it. The purpose of the bill is to modify the procedures for default penalties imposed under environmental citations to allow those cited more time before the maximum default penalty amount is imposed, and also reducing that maximum default amount.

- The ECB wants to amend the language in the current legislation to change the maximum default amount from “3 times the prescribed prepayable fine amount” to “2 times the prescribed prepayable fine amount” while still keeping the cap at no more than the lesser of the doubling or \$1,000.
- In addition, the ECB wants to remove the current language that allows for a tripling of the fine amount and replacing it with a default structure similar to parking citations where there is a monthly increase in the penalty amount for each 30 days of inaction. The ECB recommends a 50% increase every 30 days a citation remains unsatisfied with the same maximum cap of the lesser of “2 times the prescribed prepayable fine amount” or \$1,000. This would give the individual cited 5 months before reaching the maximum cap while it is currently 3 months.

The current legislation is outdated since it was created at a time when there were a few hundred citations issued per year. The reviews required by the code are simply unrealistic due to the limited resources of the ECB and City of Baltimore now that the city issues over 40,000 environmental citations a year. This bill does not impact the number of citations that will be issued by the City as that is within the domain of the issuing agencies, and the ECB does not anticipate any changes in the revenue to the City from environmental citations. The ECB completely supports this bill as it will provide those cited with more time to pay their citations before an automatic tripling occurs, and will adjust the code in a way that will realistically account for current number of citations issued.