

# SUPPORT HB 502

Litter Tax Penalty

Representative Krizek

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## Reasons to support House Bill 502

1. The **Virginia Marine Debris Reduction Plan** (the first such plan on the East Coast), recognizes the need to secure adequate funding to support grants to local governments, nonprofits and others for infrastructure improvements, behavior-change campaign development and coordination to reduce litter and marine debris
2. During the June 2018 “Stormwater and Litter” workshop (organized by Clean Virginia Waterways of Longwood University and the VA Coastal Zone Management Program), more than 40 stormwater professionals from across Virginia emphasized that increased funding was necessary to reduce the amount of litter
3. Increase the ability and capacity of local governments, Planning District Commissions, DEQ, nonprofit organizations, and university researchers to pursue a collaborative approach to reduce litter and marine debris through source reduction and changes in behavior.
4. Virginia spends millions of dollars a year cleaning up litter pollution on the tax-payers’ dime. VDOT estimates that it spends \$6 million a year picking up litter on roadways
5. The litter tax generated \$664,102 of the \$1.7 million in the Litter Control and Recycling Fund. Despite being underfunded, local programs supported by the litter tax have an economic value of over \$22 million. Increased funding will improve program efficiency.
6. Virginia’s investment in litter abatement falls far behind efforts other states have made
  - a. The Tennessee litter tax generated \$5.6 million in 2018 (Pop. 6.77 million)
  - b. The Washington state litter tax brings in \$10 million every year (Pop. 7.5 million)
  - c. The Nebraska litter tax generates about \$1.5 million annually (Pop. 1.92 million)

## Overview

A penalty of \$100 plus an amount equal to the taxes due, including all delinquent taxes due under 13 this article, and the amount that the Department of Taxation has expended in collecting these delinquent 14 taxes, shall be added to the tax levied in § 58.1-1707 for failure to pay the tax within the time limits 15 established by regulations.



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