

A LOCAL LAW amending the Laws of Westchester County by adding a new Chapter 643 to provide a civil penalty for the theft of services in relation to Westchester County's Bee-Line Bus System.

BE IT ENACTED by the County Board of the County of Westchester as follows:

**Section 1.** A new Chapter 643 is hereby added to the Laws of Westchester County as follows:

**Chapter 643**

**THEFT OF SERVICES ON COUNTY'S BEE-LINE BUS SYSTEM**

**Sec. 643.01. Purpose.**

**Sec. 643.21 Definitions.**

**Sec. 643.31. Entry; Payment of fare.**

**Sec. 643.41. Enforcement and penalty**

**Sec. 643.51. Severability.**

**Sec. 643.01. – Purpose**

The purpose of this Chapter is to deter the non-payment of fares in relation to the Bee-Line Bus System which is owned and operated by Westchester County. The County seeks to achieve that deterrence through the implementation of a civil penalty as an alternative to using the New York State Penal Law to criminalize non-compliance.

**Sec. 643.21. – Definitions.**

- a. County shall mean Westchester County.
- b. Bee-Line shall mean the bus transportation system, known as the Bee-Line System, Bee-Line Bus System, or Bee-Line Transit Service, which is owned and operated by the County.
- c. Fare means the lawful charges established by the County for use of the Bee-Line.

- d. Fare media means the various instruments issued by or on behalf of the Bee-Line to use for the payment of fare, including, but not limited to, United States coins and currency, OMNY, MetroCards, farecards, passes, transfers, tickets, and vouchers.

**Sec. 643.31. – Entry; payment of fare**

It shall be unlawful for any person to: (1) attempt to or obtain Bee-Line service without payment of the fare therefor; (2) avoid payment of the fare for such transportation service which has been rendered to them; (3) obtain or attempt to obtain such service or avoid or attempt to avoid payment therefor by force, intimidation, stealth, deception or mechanical tampering of fare media or fare collection device; or (4) unjustifiably fail or refuse to pay a fare.

**Sec. 643.41. – Enforcement and penalty.**

1. Violators of this Chapter may be issued appearance tickets by police officers of the Westchester County Department of Public Safety and municipal police departments within the County. Such appearance tickets shall be returnable in the local court of the jurisdiction where the violation occurred.

2. Any person who violates this Chapter shall be guilty of an offense and shall, upon conviction, be subject to a civil penalty not exceeding \$50 for the first offense and not exceeding \$100 for the second offense and all subsequent offenses.

**Sec. 643.41. – Severability.**

If any word, phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, section, or part of this Chapter shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered.

**Section 2. Effective Date.** This Local Law shall take effect immediately.

jsw/ew 7-7-25