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Sponsor Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 46 - Red Light Camera Tag Suspension Repeal

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House Bill 46 would repeal the provision that authorizes suspension of vehicle registrations for red light camera debt. The ability to flag a registration for non-renewal would remain.

HB46 arose out of the Joint Committee on Federal Relations, which held a briefing on interstate enforcement of traffic and toll debt.

There are three reasons why HB46 makes sense:.

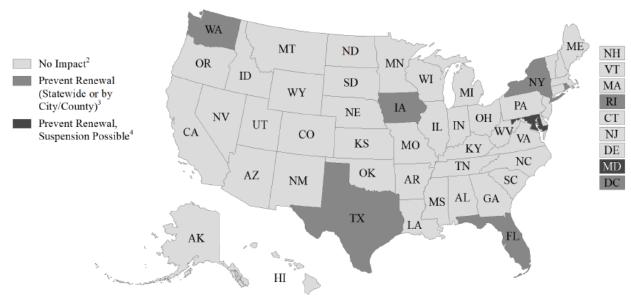
First, suspending a vehicle registration over minor traffic debt is poor policy. Tag suspension can result in unintended, disproportionate consequences, including arrest in some circumstances.

Second, Maryland is an outlier. According to the Department of Legislative Services, many states allow red light cameras, but Maryland is the only state that allows tags suspensions for this reason (see map).

Finally, this provision is unneeded and unused. Flagging for non-renewal is a highly effective means of collecting minor traffic debt. According to Chrissy Nizer of the MVA, there were zero tag suspensions in Maryland for red light camera debt in 2017 and 2018. Passage of HB46 will essentially codify the current practice.

For these reasons, I ask for your favorable report.

Red Light Camera Violations and Potential Impact on Vehicle Registration by State and in the District of Columbia¹



- 1. This map shows those states in which registration impacts are a possible consequence of failure to resolve instances of red light camera violations. Any consequences other than potential impacts on vehicle registration were outside the scope of the research request and are not represented on the map.
- 2. The "No Impact" group contains states that either have no registration impacts from red light camera violations or do not utilize red light cameras (e.g., Hawaii).
- 3. For some states that prevent renewal of a vehicle registration, the conditions may apply only to particular counties or cities; however, because this was an enforcement mechanism utilized somewhere in the state, the state is classified in the "Prevent Renewal" group.
- 4. Per Maryland Department of Transportation regulations, a vehicle registration will be suspended only when fines for these violations total \$1000 or more.

Source: Department of Legislative Services