



BERNARD C. "JACK" YOUNG
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

SB 234

February 4, 2020

TO: Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Nicholas Blendy, Deputy Director, Mayor's Office of Government Relations

RE: Senate Bill 234 - Vehicle Laws - Suspension of Driver's License or Registration - Unpaid Citations or Judgments

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) supports Senate Bill (SB) 234.

SB 234 repeals the authority of the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to suspend a driver's license for nonpayment of a traffic citation or judgment (including nonpayment of an installment plan agreement made with the District Court or a circuit court). In lieu of this process, the MVA remains authorized to pursue a civil judgment against a defendant in the amount of the fine. SB 234 further repeals a requirement that an installment payment plan be paid over 10 months, and now allows MVA to set a repayment plan at any schedule in its discretion, providing flexibility. Lastly, SB 234 retroactively applies to any driver's license or driving privilege actively suspended on its effective date.

The BCA recognizes that many City residents are working people who are reliant on being able to drive to their jobs, to take their children and loved ones to important appointments with doctors or for other services. SB 234 addresses a real problem impacting the lives of City residents by eliminating what amounts to a punitive measure on working and lower income individuals, many of whom live in Baltimore City. As Mayor Bernard C. "Jack" Young acknowledged at a press event with Attorney General Brian Frosh on January 15, 2020, "It is nonsense to think that taking away someone's legal ability to transport themselves to their job and earn a living because they owe a debt is in some way a good idea."¹

For the forgoing reasons, we respectfully request a **favorable** report on SB 234.

¹ See Luke Broadwater, "Brian Frosh, lawmakers push for legislation to block Maryland from suspending driver's licenses over unpaid tickets." Jan. 15 2020, available at <https://www.baltimoresun.com/politics/bs-md-pol-frosh-licenses-20200115-3myiq4dwxzd3hji6ya4tpyrsrq-story.html>. Last accessed Feb. 4, 2020.