



Maryland Municipal League
The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

February 27, 2020

Committee: Senate Judicial Proceedings

Bill: SB 976 – Speed Monitoring Systems – School Zones – Hours and Days of Operation

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League supports SB 976. This legislation repeals a requirement that a speed monitoring system in a school zone operate only Monday through Friday between 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

The enactment of legislation to authorize the use of speed cameras by local governments was a League priority when the legislation originally passed many years ago. MML was also an active participant when overhaul legislation was passed in 2014 to require system training, impose stricter guidelines on the use of speed cameras, add restrictions on vendor contracts, and add additional local government oversight where speed cameras are in use.

When legislation was enacted in 2014 to overhaul the speed camera statute, much discussion centered around the hours and days of operation. MML advocated at that time that speed camera programs should be operational seven days a week, 24 hours a day based on the fact that this is already in effect in Montgomery County and is working well. In addition, school activities often go beyond 8:00 p.m. and also often occur on weekends, which means that students may be walking in a school zone, often in the dark, which makes operating a speed camera program 24/7 even more important.

The League feels that the discussion around speed camera program hours and days of operation should be revisited and that this legislation is necessary. For these reasons, MML supports SB 976 and requests a favorable report.

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