

RedSpeed_SB976_FAV

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Position: FAV



February 27, 2020

Bill: SB 976: Speed Monitoring Systems- School Zones- Hours and Day of Operation

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of RedSpeed MD, I am writing to express our support for SB 976. RedSpeed Maryland works closely with law enforcement throughout a number of Maryland jurisdictions to provide turn-key automated traffic enforcement solutions to keep Maryland's roads and pedestrians safe.

Over the years, RedSpeed has worked to install and operate school zone enforcement systems and knows they significantly reduce speeding and alter driving behavior, ultimately keeping our communities and vulnerable youth safer.

Each day, pedestrians and streams of traffic enter or pass by our schools via buses, vehicles, and bicycles. Established school zones and automated enforcement provide greater coverage for this potentially dangerous ingress and egress and enhance awareness of the school zones without needing to alter current infrastructure. The speed limits remain in effect 24/7 and so should the enforcement.

Current statute restricts the days and times in which school zone cameras may be operate to 6:00 am to 8:00 pm Monday through Friday. We know after consulting law enforcement in the jurisdictions we operate that but for this restriction, many passing cars would receive a ticket for exceeding the speed limit by at least 12 mph. Recognizing that many student activities take place outside of this span of time and frequently occur on the weekends, we support this repeal.

For these reasons, we respectfully request a favorable report on SB 976.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Sarah Peters at speters@hbstrategies.us or (410) 322-2320.

Sincerely,

Mario Hernandez
Vice President

MML_FAV_SB976

Uploaded by: Donoho, Candace

Position: FAV



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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Lee_FAV_SB976

Uploaded by: Senator Lee, Senator Lee

Position: FAV

SUSAN C. LEE
Legislative District 16
Montgomery County

MAJORITY WHIP

Judicial Proceedings Committee

Joint Committee on
Cybersecurity, Information Technology,
and Biotechnology

Chair Emeritus
Maryland Legislative Asian American
and Pacific Islander Caucus

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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 27, 2020

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

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

Under current law, speed monitoring systems in a school zone may only operate from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Friday; this simple bill repeals that limitation and allows speed monitoring systems to operate in school zones 24/7. The reason we have speed monitoring systems around schools to begin with is to vigorously deter reckless driving around our children. What we have to recognize is that schools are not just a hub for children when class is in session.

School zone speed cameras already operate over the Summer and on school holidays because large numbers of students still spend time in and around schools during those periods. But what our current regime fails to accommodate for is the student time in and around their schools on weekends and in the late evening on weekdays for athletics, community events and other activities. We must strengthen and extend our reckless driving deterrence regime in school zones to reflect this reality.

There have been several high-profile and horrific pedestrian incidents involving children around schools in and around my district, and there are many more across the State every year. While the facts of those cases don't always specifically relate to speeding in a school zone, it is clear that we need to do all we can to encourage safe and responsible driving around our schools.

To protect our children and promote public safety, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB 976.

Bikemore_FAV_SB0976-LOS

Uploaded by: Weeks, Jed

Position: FAV



February 26, 2020

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr
The Honorable Jeff Waldstreicher
Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Support for SB0976 Speed Monitoring Systems - School Zones - Hours and Days of Operation

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

Bikemore is Baltimore City's Livable Streets Advocacy organization representing over 5,000 supporters and the hundreds of thousands of Baltimoreans who walk, bike, roll, and take transit through Baltimore City daily. We write in support of SB0976 Speed Monitoring Systems - School Zones - Hours and Days of Operation, which will repeal a requirement that speed monitoring systems only operate between 6:00am and 8:00pm.

Baltimore City experiences significant injury and death on city roadways. Speed cameras are proven through an extensive body of research to reduce injury and fatal crashes.

Our city lacks a yellow school bus system, and children must use Maryland Transit Administration bus service in order to access their schools of choice, as well as after school activities. In practice, this means students are often in transit to or from school and related activities well into the evening hours, and then waiting at transit stops for transfers or walking the last few blocks home after cameras are shut off.

One third of our city lacks access to a vehicle entirely. Half of our city regularly lacks access to a vehicle. In our poorest neighborhoods, zero car households approach eighty percent. These residents are reliant on walking, biking, and public transportation as their primary means of accessing opportunity. They are placed in harm's way the second speed camera systems turn off. In practice, this means our most vulnerable road users are disproportionately injured and killed along our roadways.

We know cameras work. We know that this legislation would save additional lives. We support it and we urge the committee to support it as well.

Sincerely,

Jed Weeks
Policy Director