



# Montgomery County

## Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550

ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270

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**HB 367**

**DATE: February 16, 2023**

**SPONSOR: Delegate Charkoudian**

**ASSIGNED TO: Environment and Transportation**

**CONTACT PERSON: Sara Morningstar (Sara.Morningstar@montgomerycountymd.gov)**

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

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### **Vehicle Laws – Stop Sign Monitoring Systems – Authorization**

House Bill 367 would authorize a local jurisdiction to use a stop sign monitoring system (after completing certain public engagement) that would detect an approaching vehicle at an intersection and trigger a flashing system within the sign. Failure to abide by the stop sign could result in a citation being issued by the local jurisdiction (like the process used for speed cameras). The bill would create a graduated fine schedule based on the income of the vehicle's registered owner, except for a commercial vehicle where the fine would be set at \$110.00. Montgomery County supports the bill.

Expanding automated traffic enforcement (ATE) through new technology, like that proposed in HB 367, is a good practice and could not only help decrease the number of traffic-related crashes and fatalities, but also reduce the number of unnecessary police encounters with motorists that can begin with stops over common traffic violations like broken taillights or failing to stop at a stop sign. In reviewing HB 367, Montgomery County's ATE division noted potential logistical challenges with the bill's proposed new graduated fine schedule for an ATE stop sign violation that may need to be worked through before this proposed program could be made operational.

Montgomery County supports efforts to reduce the number of unnecessary police encounters, and this legislative proposal could advance that cause. As such, Montgomery County urges the Committee to adopt a favorable report on HB 367.