



House Bill 367

Vehicle Laws – Stop Sign Monitoring Systems - Authorization

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**
WITH AMENDMENTS

To: Environment and Transportation
Committee

Date: February 16, 2023

From: Sarah Sample

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS HB 367 WITH AMENDMENTS**. This bill would allow counties to install stop sign monitoring systems on county roadways. This is enabling legislation that authorizes counties to apply an additional tool in maintaining motor vehicle compliance and safety in neighborhoods and communities.

In addition to the enhanced security and order these programs help local governments maintain, they also help to support other public safety measures that keep these communities thriving. With an automated option for enforcing motor vehicle laws and violations, there is great potential to divert costs associated with law enforcement personnel who would typically be tasked with motor vehicle monitoring. These savings can be reinvested in other areas, while maintaining compliance and calming neighborhoods via the automated monitoring system.

One amendment would benefit the flexible authority afforded under HB 367. *Counties support an amendment to authorize the balance of collected fines to be used for public safety purposes (a term used and defined in current law) rather than only pedestrian safety (newly added by HB 367 as drafted)*. This would grant each local jurisdiction the ability to apply any new resources in accordance with specific needs, in line with the current law governing other automated safety systems.

Counties welcome this additional means to provide the accommodations necessary to maintain safe streets for all and doing so in a way that is sensitive to the constant demands on taxpayer dollars and county budgets. For these reasons, MACo urges a report of **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** for HB 367.