



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

TESTIMONY

March 23, 2023

Committee: House Environment and Transportation

Bill: SB 11 - Motor Vehicles – Speed Limits – School Zones

Position: Oppose

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League opposes Senate Bill 11, which would restrict the ability of Maryland's cities and towns from implementing critical vehicular safety measures around schools. The bill effectively reduces the area around a school in which a "school zone" may be designated, from 0.5 miles to 500 feet, unless recommended by a traffic engineering study.

The designation of a school zone around a school carries with it two important safety features that municipal governments can implement to increase safety on nearby roadways. Both these measures, if implemented by a municipality, are accompanied by appropriate signage and public notice.

- First, the speed limit can be lowered to 15 MPH during school hours and
- Second, speed monitoring cameras may be installed and operational only between 6am and 8pm on weekdays.

County boards of education can set parameters around when students are eligible to ride the bus. In most instances, students who live under a mile from the school are not eligible to take the bus and therefore must walk, bike, or perhaps catch a ride. It takes about two minutes to walk 500 feet but about 20 minutes to walk one mile, yet this bill limits critical safety measures to within 500 feet of the school.

The provisions of SB 11 significantly reduce municipal authority to implement proven safety measures on roads surrounding a school. For this reason, the League respectfully requests that this committee provide Senate Bill 11 with an unfavorable report.

1212 West Street, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

410-268-5514 | 800-492-7121 | FAX: 410-268-7004 | www.mdmunicipal.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Theresa Kuhns

Angelica Bailey Thupari, Esq.

Bill Jorch

Justin Fiore

Chief Executive Officer

Director, Advocacy & Public Affairs

Director, Public Policy

Manager, Government Relations