

MARYLAND JUDICIAL CONFERENCE
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Hon. Matthew J. Fader
Chief Justice

187 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401

MEMORANDUM

TO: House Environment and Transportation Committee
FROM: Legislative Committee
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.
410-260-1523
RE: House Bill 367
Vehicle Laws – Stop Sign Monitoring Systems – Authorization
DATE: February 1, 2023
(2/16)
POSITION: Oppose, as drafted

The Maryland Judiciary opposes House Bill 367, as drafted. This bill establishes a Stop Sign Monitoring System. A Stop Sign Monitoring System means a device with one or more motor vehicle sensors that produce recorded images of motor vehicles that fail to come to a complete stop before entering an intersection.

The Judiciary is concerned with the provision at Transportation Article § 21-707.1(g)(5). This provision requires court clerks' offices to send to local law enforcement agencies "evidence substantiating who was operating" vehicles when the alleged offender is shown not to have been the operator when the traffic violations were committed. This inappropriately puts courts in the position of assisting a prosecuting agency.

In addition, the Judiciary believes that the different monetary penalty caps based on a defendant's income, as prescribed in this bill, would be unwieldly to apply appropriately and uniformly, and also act to remove judicial discretion to fashion appropriate penalties based on the individual circumstances of each case.

cc. Hon. Lorig Charkoudian
Judicial Council
Legislative Committee
Kelley O'Connor