

## Oppose HB353

Perhaps inadvertently, this bill may give unchecked surveillance powers to an undetermined group or a number of groups or agencies, over which Maryland or its citizens have no control. The bill does not clearly specify what a “traffic control device” is, other than having ability to arbitrarily perform surveillance and record activity.

Nowhere does this bill specify how collected information is retained, how it can be shared, who might have unauthorized access to the recordings and whether there are penalties, and how citizens being surveilled can protect their privacy. The recorded information may become part of vast data networks and databases used for broad surveillance capabilities not controlled even by the State of Maryland, much less by its citizens.

Thinking of examples, it’s possible that a “traffic control device” could be an x-ray machine, which could expose an individual to an unauthorized search or violation of privacy. The bill does not provide any protections for such intrusion of privacy and violation of civil rights.