



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

TESTIMONY

January 25, 2023

**Committee:** Senate Judicial Proceedings

**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 reduces the radius around a school in which a "school zone" may be designated, from 0.5 miles to 0.1 mile.

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.

These two tools are effective at reducing speeding and therefore increasing the safety of nearby schoolchildren. However, the provisions of the bill that reduce the radius of a school zone fundamentally diminish a municipality's ability to use these tools to an area that seems inadequate to properly safeguard against speeders. For instance, it takes a car driving at 20 MPH one and a half minutes to travel 0.5 miles, the current maximum radius of a school zone. However, it takes that same car only 18 seconds to travel the bill's proposed maximum radius of 0.1 mile at the same 20 MPH.

The provisions of SB 11 significantly reduce municipal authority to implement 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.

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