



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Mark Korman, Chair and
Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Darren Popkin, Executive Director, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Natasha Mehu, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: February 29, 2024

RE: **HB 1001 – Motor Vehicles - Automated Enforcement Programs - Privacy
Protections**

POSITION: **OPPOSE**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **OPPOSE HB 1001**. This bill seeks to prohibit state and local police agencies or other agencies that operate an automated enforcement program from using recorded images or other data from the program for any purpose other than traffic enforcement raising concerns about the impact it would have on police investigations.

Automated enforcement cameras play a crucial role in traffic safety. They are used to deter people from speeding, running red lights, passing stopped school buses, or other traffic safety purposes and to penalize those who violate those laws. The goal is to ensure the safety of all who use our roads be it pedestrians, drivers, or bicyclists.

These cameras are also powerful tools that enhance public safety and aid law enforcement in solving crimes. Police investigators may use camera recordings and data to identify suspects on the run, track their movements, and reconstruct events. This bill would completely strip law enforcement of the ability to review the data as part of a criminal investigation when necessary.

Accessing this data for investigations is not something law enforcement takes lightly. Officers are not scanning automated camera footage in hopes of catching people in the act or doing so in place of other investigative methods. Rather, there are instances where time is of the essence for officers to act and perpetrators are still at large. For example, a child is kidnapped or someone is murdered and the offender has escaped in a vehicle. Law enforcement may then use the camera footage to see what direction they are traveling in or where they have been in conjunction with other intel and evidence they are gathering to determine the next steps. In those instances, accessing automated camera footage may be the difference between finding the child before they are further harmed or the criminal before they commit another crime.

Prohibiting the use of the camera recording images and data from law enforcement investigations may jeopardize timely response to crime and place individuals at further risk. For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **OPPOSE HB 1001** and request an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report.

532 Baltimore Boulevard, Suite 308
Westminster, Maryland 21157
667-314-3216 / 667-314-3236