



HB 513: Motor Vehicles - Work Zone Speed Control Systems - Revisions (Maryland Road Worker Protection Act of 2024)

Position: Support

The American Council of Engineering Companies / Maryland (ACEC/MD) is the business voice for Maryland's engineering industry. We represent nearly 90 firms employing more than 7,000 engineers, architects, land surveyors, planners, scientists, construction inspectors and support professionals who design and improve our state's built and natural environment.

Engineering firms play a vital role in the successful implementation of infrastructure projects. From initial planning studies to community outreach, detailed engineering and the regulatory approval process, our professionals are engaged in all aspects of project development, oftentimes representing our clients' interests in the field. They also play a critical role ensuring projects are constructed as designed, providing Construction Inspection services on behalf of our clients.

One such dedicated Construction Inspector was Sybil DiMaggio. With over 15 years of experience, Sybil came to ACEC/MD member firm KCI Technologies specifically to support the implementation of the State Highway Administration's Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO) program, a series of projects designed to improve the safety, security, and reliability of our state's transportation network. She had supported other signature projects in Maryland over the years, including the MD 404 Project on the Eastern Shore. Sybil was just 46 years old when she and 5 other roadway workers were tragically killed in a work zone along I-695 on March 22, 2023. She leaves behind a husband, two children, loving parents, siblings, and many family members.

Thousands of Inspectors just like Sybil show up at job sites every day in the hopes that their work will improve the safety and reliability of our state's road system. Aggressive and distracted driving, including excessive speeding are unacceptable practices and unnecessarily endanger construction professionals. Our workers deserve to be protected through every available application of technology, equipment, and training.

The provisions within HB 513 will allow the use of fully electronic speed control systems through the work zone. Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) systems are an important tool and have proven to be effective in changing driver behavior. While the state has identified several locations where these systems can be deployed, the program is currently limited by the number of ASE systems in use on any given day.

Multiple control systems, unmanned ASE systems, increased signage and enhanced civil penalties, as proposed in this bill, are important first steps in elevating the concept of work zone safety. It is our sincere hope that the state can find the financial resources to commit to a robust expansion of work protection provisions such as those within HB 513.