



## **Senate Bill 479**

*Motor Vehicles – Work Zone Speed Control Systems – Revisions  
(Maryland Road Worker Protection Act of 2024)*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Judicial Proceedings Committee

**WITH AMENDMENTS**

Date: February 22, 2024

From: Sarah Sample

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS SB 479 WITH AMENDMENTS**. This bill expands the State’s authority for the use of speed cameras in designated work zones on certain state highways. It also increases the fee that can be assessed for a violation recorded by a speed monitoring device in a designated work zone, reflecting the severity of those offenses.

Hundreds of county employees are regularly working to ensure the quality and safety of local roads. They often work on roadways at all hours of the day and night so residents can get where they need to go. These types of roadway and highway improvements are substantial investments that counties make across a number of initiatives including Vision Zero, Complete Streets, and the like. This accounts for a significant volume of work local government workers are doing every year in these dangerous settings, at all hours of the night, where cars are driving by constantly.

The provisions of this bill give the State the authority to take measures that can ensure the safety of their own workers but does not extend that authority to local governments to protect the local county workforce. Counties would propose an amendment extending parallel authority in the bill for local governments on county roads and highways with at least a 45 miles per hour speed limit. Dedicated county employees are making sure roadway and highway safety projects can come to fruition. Their contributions are no less important, and are potentially even more so, as local governments manage 83 percent of Maryland’s road miles.

There are thousands of local workers on hundreds of miles of county roads and highways, and these valuable local employees deserve the same protections as State employees. For these reasons, MACo **SUPPORTS SB 479 WITH AMENDMENTS**.