

March 20, 2025

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee
251 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Letter of Information – Senate Bill 381 – Motor Vehicles - Automated Enforcement Programs - Privacy Protections

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on Senate Bill 381 and offers the following information for the Committee’s consideration.

As amended, SB 381 would enact privacy protections for motorists who are photographed or recorded via automated traffic enforcement (AE) systems, which include speed and red-light running cameras. The legislation proposes conditions around the management, access to, use, and destruction of records for captured images and video from AE devices.

With the increasing reliance on AE systems to enforce vehicle laws, citations written by law enforcement officers have decreased significantly over the past several years. Vehicle records and traffic violations, such as captured vehicle speeds, are maintained by each jurisdiction or its vendor. While the State can track certain metrics with written citations, the State does not maintain an independent, single repository for AE citations. The only information submitted to the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) is unpaid citations to flag a vehicle’s registration, as Maryland’s privacy laws prohibit the sharing of AE data with MVA and, consequently, the Maryland Highway Safety Office (MHSO).¹

SB 381 applies to recorded images captured by AE systems in work zones operated by the State Highway Administration (SHA). MDOT appreciates the sponsor’s willingness to work with the department to address operational issues in the bill as introduced. The additional time authorized for the maintenance of recorded images will allow MVA and SHA to better assist customers with resolving AE citations received in work zones and registration issues related to traffic citations. MDOT believes the language could be further improved by striking “**FOR**” on page 6, line 26, and substituting the phrase, “***RELATING TO***”; doing so will clarify that images may be retained until the resolution of any stage of the civil citation process, regardless of whether the individual challenges the citation in court, pays the fine, or fails to act.

¹ The MHSO oversees Vision Zero, the goal of zero roadway deaths in Maryland by 2030.

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The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests that the Committee consider this information when deliberating Senate Bill 381.

Respectfully submitted,

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