



**HEARING DATE:** February 5, 2025

**BILL NO/TITLE:** SB339: Maryland Transportation Authority - Video Toll Facilities - Study on Image Capture of License Plates

**COMMITTEE:** Senate Finance

**POSITION:** Support

SB339 would require the Maryland Transportation Authority to conduct a study on the feasibility of capturing the image of only the rear license plate of a vehicle for the purposes of collecting a toll charge. Maryland Motor Truck Association (MMTA) supports this study because the Association believes there are considerable differences between passenger cars and commercial trucks that should be considered before any change to the video tolling process occurs.

The study required in SB339 must identify (1) any system and equipment upgrades necessary to reliably capture the image of the rear license plate of a vehicle at a video toll facility and (2) any potential impacts that may occur as the result of capturing the image of only the rear license plate of a vehicle rather than both the front and rear license plates.

Unlike passenger cars, which must have rear license plates, commercial tractors do not have a rear plate. They are only required to display a front plate because any rear plate would be hidden by a trailer, which has its own separate plate number. Since trailers are not often owned by the trucking company pulling them, allowing video tolls to post only on a rear plate opens up numerous concerns, such as:

- Disproportionate impact on trucking companies hauling containerized cargo on chassis at the Port of Baltimore;
- Lease/rental trailer challenges.
- Potential for double tolling;
- Massive increases in the number of mailed toll notices being sent to trailer owners in lieu of the responsible motor carrier operating the tractor.

Inasmuch as the passage of SB339 will further explore these issues, MMTA asks for a favorable report.

**About Maryland Motor Truck Association:** Maryland Motor Truck Association is a non-profit trade association that has represented the trucking industry since 1935. In service to its 1,000 members, MMTA is committed to support, advocate and educate for a safe, efficient and profitable trucking industry in Maryland.

**For further information, contact:** Louis Campion, (c) 443-623-5663