



Maryland Municipal League
The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

January 31, 2025

Committee: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Bill: SB 390 - Motor Vehicles - Speed Monitoring Systems - Statements and Certificates of Violations

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) supports Senate Bill 390 which will promote roadway safety by improving the efficiency and efficacy of local speed camera programs. The bill adds technicians to the list of individuals who may review speed camera images and sign citations sent to vehicle owners and clarifies that citations signed by technicians are admissible in court. SB 390 also sets a training floor which currently does not exist. The bill assists local governments with flexibility on the back-end review but does not require that a local government use a technician for speed camera image review, a police officer is still authorized to do so as well.

Adding trained technicians as an option for municipal governments to use for back-end review of speed camera images helps in two primary ways:

1. For municipalities without a police department, this change allows for the entire speed camera process to be done in house. Currently, municipalities without a police department must find a benevolent neighboring police department to take on the review portion of the process. This can often be difficult and costly; only three municipalities without a police department operate speed cameras.
2. For municipalities with a police department, this change provides an option to relieve officers of the administrative task of reviewing speed camera images, acting as a force multiplier. The technician would remain an employee of the police department but their role would allow the officers to resume more typical public safety duties.

Police officers receive training on how to properly read speed camera images and the data contained on each and technicians would receive the same training. In fact, technicians have been authorized to review red-light camera images since 1997.



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In 2009, the General Assembly first authorized state-wide use of speed cameras and provided significant revisions in 2014. Some opponents of the bill refer to the original intent of the speed camera program, but it has been 15 years since they were first authorized and it is time to ask whether more changes are needed.

For these reasons, the Maryland Municipal League respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 390. For more information, please contact Bill Jorch, Director, Public Policy and Research at billj@mdmunicipal.org. Thank you for your consideration.

The Maryland Municipal League uses its collective voice to advocate, empower and protect the interests of our 160 local governments members and elevates local leadership, delivers impactful solutions for our communities, and builds an inclusive culture for the 2 million Marylanders we serve.



The Town of
GLEN ECHO
Chartered 1904

January 27, 2025

Committee: Senate Judicial Proceedings

Bill: HB 390 – Motor Vehicles -Speed Monitoring Systems - Agencies - Statements and Certificates of Violations

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

The Town of Glen Echo supports House Bill 390, which would authorize trained civilian personnel to monitor and oversee speed camera enforcement. This legislation represents a practical, efficient, and cost-effective approach to supporting municipalities that don't have their own police departments while optimizing the allocation of law enforcement resources.

The importance for this bill to pass is twofold: improving roadway safety and ensuring our police officers are focused and placed where they are most needed directly in our community.

We have continually increasing congestion as our town borders MacArthur Boulevard and the Clara Barton Parkway. In addition to relying on video footage outside of town, our town council has been considering installing speed cameras in our jurisdiction for the police department to review when necessary.

Neither our town, nor the smaller neighboring communities around us have their own police departments. We all know that our District 2 Police in Bethesda do not have enough police officers on the streets. We believe having certified technicians would be more than adequate to view footage and free up officers' much needed time.

For these reasons, the Town of Glen Echo respectfully requests that the committee provide House Bill 390 with a favorable report.

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