

SB 390 - MML - FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Bill Jorch

Position: FAV



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.



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

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.

Mayor Dia Costello
mayorcostello@glenecho.gov
301-538-778

SB 390, FAV, FCG, OCE, LS25.pdf

Uploaded by: Jessica Fitzwater

Position: FAV



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

SB 0390 – Motor Vehicles – Speed Monitoring Systems – Statements and Certificates of Violations

DATE: January 31, 2025
COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings Committee
POSITION: Favorable
FROM: The Office of Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

As the County Executive of Frederick County, I urge the committee to give **SB 0390 – Speed Monitoring Systems – Statements and Certificates of Violations** a favorable report.

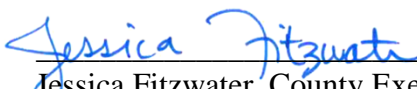
This bill would allow local jurisdictions and municipalities to streamline the use of speed monitoring systems by permitting trained municipal personnel—along with law enforcement officers—to approve or deny speed camera citations.

Speeding through busy roads and pedestrian areas is a serious safety concern in many municipalities. Speed cameras have been proven to influence driver behavior, reducing vehicle speeds and improving safety for both pedestrians and drivers. Unfortunately, because of the current state requirement for all speed camera citations to be reviewed by a law enforcement officer, not all municipalities have access to this essential safety tool.

Currently, trained municipal personnel are allowed to approve or deny red-light and work zone speed camera citations. By expanding this authority to include speed cameras, all municipalities—including the nine in Frederick County without their own police force—will be able to implement speed cameras to enhance safety. This change would also ease the workload of county law enforcement agencies who currently handle the review of these citations.

I support this bill because it will help municipalities in Frederick County address the safety concerns of their residents more effectively, while reducing the burden on the Frederick County Sheriff's Office.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 0390. I urge you to advance this bill with a favorable report.



Jessica Fitzwater, County Executive
Frederick County, MD

Support for SB390 - Speed Monitoring Systems - Age

Uploaded by: Johntel Greene

Position: FAV



Prince George's County Municipal Association
An Association of 27 Municipalities



January 29, 2025

The Honorable Col. William Smith, Jr., Chair Judicial Proceedings Committee
Miller Senate Office Building 2 East
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Support for SB390 - Speed Monitoring Systems - Agencies - Statements and Certificates of Violations

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceeding Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. We write on behalf of the 27 municipalities that make up the Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA), which collectively represents more than 955,000 residents, to share our support of SB390.

This bill would allow the hiring and employment of technicians to review and certify speed camera citations. Currently, only a law enforcement officer may make these certifications. The process of reviewing the footage of the violations for clarity and accuracy is largely an administrative task. Expanding the criteria in staff selection and hiring to allow for a technician who does not require the same credentials as an LEO would allow municipalities to more flexibly manage their budget decision and human resources. It will also free up those law enforcement officers to focus on other tasks serving our communities.

Not all municipalities have police departments. The current law requires those without police departments to contract with an agency to review traffic violations. These agencies are often the County or other City Police Departments, shifting resources from the location most impacted.

There is a recruitment and retention challenge for law enforcement agencies around the state. Municipalities with police departments would benefit from this legislation by being better able to hire for their needs, which follows job characteristics theory, a proven retention tool. Passing HB282 would allow both cities with and without a police department the opportunity to reduce costs or hire locally and in doing so help keep our cities safe.

For those reasons, PGCMA respectfully requests the Committee's **Favorable report for SB390.**

Sincerely,

Celina R. Benitez

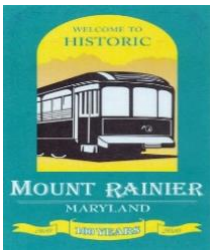
Mayor Celina R. Benitez

President, Prince Georges County Municipal Association (PGCMA)

Support for Senate Bill 390 – Motor Vehicles – Spe

Uploaded by: Mayor Celina Benitez

Position: FAV



Office of The Mayor Celina Benitez

1 Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, Maryland 20712 Telephone: (301) 985-6585 MountRainierMd.org

January 29, 2025

RE: Support for Senate Bill 390 – Motor Vehicles – Speed Monitoring Systems – Statements and Certificates of Violations

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee,

On behalf of the City of Mount Rainier, I write to express our strong support for **Senate Bill 390**, which enhances the efficiency and accuracy of Maryland's speed monitoring systems by allowing trained technicians, in addition to law enforcement officers, to certify violations recorded by these systems.

Speeding remains a persistent safety concern in our city, where pedestrian-friendly streets intersect with high-traffic corridors. Automated enforcement tools, such as speed cameras, play a vital role in our efforts to reduce speeding and prevent accidents. By ensuring that technicians employed or contracted by agencies can affirm recorded violations—provided they complete appropriate training—SB 390 strengthens the integrity of the citation process while allowing law enforcement officers to focus on critical public safety duties.

This bill maintains necessary safeguards, requiring that all personnel responsible for certifying violations receive specialized training in speed monitoring systems. This provision ensures that due process is upheld while increasing the efficiency of the enforcement process. By expanding the capacity of qualified individuals who can affirm violations, SB 390 supports municipalities like Mount Rainier in promoting safer roadways for our residents and visitors.

We urge the committee to issue a **favorable report on SB 390** and support its passage. Thank you for your time and consideration. Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact our office 301-985-6585 or via email MayorBenitez@MountRainierMD.org

Sincerely,

Celina R. Benitez

Mayor Celina R. Benitez, City of Mount Rainier

SB0390 - TSO OPPD - LOS - Motor Vehicles - Speed M

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: FAV

January 31, 2025

The Honorable William C. Smith Jr.
Chair, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

***RE: Letter of Support – Senate Bill 390 – Motor Vehicles – Speed Monitoring Systems –
Statements and Certificates of Violations***

Dear Chair Smith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) supports Senate Bill 390 as an important reform to support the continued successful deployment of speed monitoring system programs that reduce speeds and save lives.

SB 390 permits a technician to sign a speed monitoring system citation in lieu of a law enforcement officer. The legislation also requires a law enforcement officer or technician who signs the citations to complete a reasonable training specific to the speed monitoring system before certifying any certifications of violation.

MDOT is strongly committed to the Vision Zero goals that the General Assembly has endorsed and sees appropriate use of speed monitoring systems as a critical tool in making sure that excessive speeding and unsafe driver behaviors are addressed on Maryland's roads. MDOT also understands that a successful statewide program should both be implementable and build trust.

This legislation achieves those goals by giving local jurisdictions flexibility in their staffing approach to signing citations and by making sure that all responsible signers, officers or technicians, are appropriately trained in the critical role that they play in responsibly administering this program to improve safety on Maryland's roads.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee grant Senate Bill 390 a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe McAndrew
Assistant Secretary, Planning and Project
Development
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-865-1006

Matthew Mickler
Director of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-865-1090

MCPA-MSA SB 390 Speed Monitoring Systems SUPPORT.p

Uploaded by: Samira Jackson

Position: FAV



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chair and
Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Darren Popkin, Executive Director, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Samira Jackson, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: January 31, 2025

RE: **SB 390 Motor Vehicles – Speed Monitoring Systems – Statements and Certificates of Violations**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT SB 390**. This bill allows for certified technicians, along with already authorized law enforcement, to inspect recorded images produced by speed cameras and swear to and affirm the recorded violation's accuracy.

Under current law, only law enforcement officers are authorized to review speed camera images and approve citations. This is a timely process and requires law enforcement officers to perform administrative duties instead of being present in the field and available to respond to urgent emergencies. SB 390 seeks to find a balance of these duties by allowing authorized technicians, who complete the same reasonable training as law enforcement, to review these images and recordings and approve citations. Given the difficult state of officer recruitment and retention in the state of Maryland, law enforcement needs as many available officers as possible, and this bill can and will assist with that problem.

Additionally, civilian technicians have been permitted to review red light camera images and approve citations since 1997. This has proven to be very effective and SB 390 will create these same efficiencies.

Speed cameras are a proven tool to reduce speeding and decrease traffic related injuries. This bill will improve the efficiency of these critical traffic safety programs, create less administrative work for law enforcement officers, and allow law enforcement officers to use their time and resources in the field as needed. For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT SB 390** and urge a **FAVORABLE** committee report.

SB0390-JPR_MACo_SUP.pdf

Uploaded by: Sarah Sample

Position: FAV



Senate Bill 390

Motor Vehicles - Speed Monitoring Systems - Statements and Certificates of Violations

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Judicial Proceedings Committee

Date: January 31, 2025

From: Sarah Sample

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 390. This bill would allow county law enforcement agencies to add, as they see fit, a trained technician to the pool of employees who are able to sign the statement alleging a violation as evidenced by a speed monitoring system.

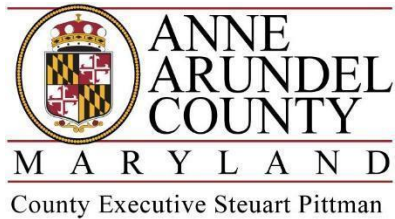
This bill gives law enforcement agencies the flexibility to have a sworn officer or a trained employee sign speed camera violation statements. This authority is already granted to local agencies when reviewing red light camera and school bus camera citations. In those circumstances, the ability to dedicate employees, sworn or otherwise, to tasks according to specific skill sets, time constraints, and need has improved efficiency. Additionally, vacancy issues within the public safety workforce are contributing to dangerously low numbers of officers available in the community. Civilian employees, with the necessary expertise to sign these statements, will leave more officers in the community at a time when all jurisdictions are experiencing precarious staffing shortfalls in public safety.

SB 390 would authorize law enforcement agencies to delegate tasks thoughtfully and effectively, enhancing workforce utility across the entire agency. For this reason, MACo **SUPPORTS** SB 390 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report.

Anne Arundel County _FAV_SB390.pdf

Uploaded by: Steuart Pittman

Position: FAV



January 31, 2025

SB 390

**Motor Vehicles - Speed Monitoring Systems - Statements and
Certificates of Violations**

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Position: FAVORABLE

Anne Arundel County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 390 – Motor Vehicles - Speed Monitoring Systems - Statements and Certificates of Violations. This Bill would authorize technicians, employed by or under contract with the Anne Arundel County Police Department, to swear to and affirm, based on inspection of recorded images, the occurrence of violations recorded by speed monitoring systems, as well as require law enforcement officers and technicians to complete training specific to the speed monitoring system before certifying any certificates of violation.

Anne Arundel County utilizes speed monitoring systems across the County in school zones and in other areas of the County where traffic studies and community concerns have identified a need for enforcement. This Bill would allow the County to utilize technicians, as opposed to sworn law enforcement officers, to validate and certify violations detected by automated speed enforcement systems. This would result in a savings of personnel costs. It would also allow the County to re-deploy sworn law enforcement officers currently committed to administrative validations and certifications related to automated speed enforcement to law enforcement functions in the field.

Accordingly, Anne Arundel County respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 390.