



Live the life you want.

From: Ronza Othman, President
National Federation of the Blind of Maryland
15 Charles Plaza, #3002
Baltimore, MD 21201 president@nfbmd.org

To: House Environment & Transportation Committee

The members of the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland urge the House Environment & Transportation Committee to give a favorable report to HB0055. This bill establishes speed monitoring systems in residential areas as designated in the bill.

Blind and low vision individuals would particularly benefit from this bill because, as pedestrians, we are at the mercy of drivers who frequently don't adhere to posted speed limits. This results in decreased safety as we move about our communities. We depend on sound to cross streets, follow traffic in areas where we must walk on the shoulder due to lack of sidewalks, and when our ability to hear or nonvisually discern traffic is obstructed. Drivers who fail to drive within the speed limit are problematic in all of the obvious ways, but also because when we make decisions about crossing, walking, and other navigation, we are assuming they are driving at the regular rate of speed; thus, when they are travelling faster, we don't know this until we are hurt by these drivers.

Speed monitoring systems are necessary for traffic speed enforcement. Police officers cannot be everywhere, and these systems make it so they don't have to be. Moreover, they serve as a natural deterrence to speeding.

These systems have evolved such that privacy is protected. We use similar systems throughout the state for toll way monitoring, bus lane monitoring, and for red light enforcement.

For those reasons, we ask for a favorable report on HB0055. For questions, please contact me at President@nfbmd.org or at 443-426-4110.

