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By: Delegate Hixson

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 1996 Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

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CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Vehicle Laws - Traffic Control Signal Monitoring System - Owner Liability

3 [TAG ftpo]FOR the purpose of authorizing a law enforcement agency of a political subdivision or

- 4 State law enforcement agency to mail a citation to the owner of a motorvehicle who
- 5 is recorded by a traffic control signal monitoring system violating certain laws

6 regarding driving through a traffic control signal entering an intersection against a

7 red signal indication; establishing the content of a citation; authorizing a political

8 subdivision to send the sending of a warning to the owner of the motor vehicle in

9 lieu of a citation; authorizing the political subdivision or State agency to fine the

10 owner of the motor vehicle a certain amount; making imposition of a certain civil

11 penalty; providing that the owner of the vehicle is responsible for paying the fine

12 without regard to the identity of the individual driving the motor vehicle at the time

13 of the violation; authorizing the owner to request a hearing; requiring the political

14 subdivision or authorized State agency to make the recorded images available to

15 certain persons under certain circumstances; civil penalty under certain

16 circumstances; providing that persons receiving citations may elect to stand trial in

17 the District Court; establishing the defenses that may be considered by a hearing

18 officer; establishing a certain presumption; imposing certain additional penalties on

19 and authorizing certain other actions when an owner who fails to pay the fine civil

20 penalty, contest liability, or appear for trial; prohibiting imposition f liability under

21 this Act from being considered a moving violation for certain purposes and, being

22 recorded on the driving record of the driver or vehicle owner, or beingconsidered

23 by an insurer for certain purposes; establishing that recorded images are admissible

24 in evidence without authentication; modifying the jurisdiction of the District Court

25 for certain purposes; requiring that certain actions be in compliance with Motor

26 Vehicle Administration regulations; requiring the State Highway Administration to

27 provide certain funding; defining certain terms; and generally relatingto imposition

28 of certain liability on the owner of a motor vehicle recorded by a traffic control

- 1 signal monitoring system violating certain laws regarding traffic control signals.
- 2 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
- 3 Article Courts and Judicial Proceedings
- 4 <u>Section 4-401(11) and (12)</u>
- 5 <u>Annotated Code of Maryland</u>
- 6 (1995 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

7 BY adding to

- 8 Article Courts and Judicial Proceedings
- 9 <u>Section 4-401(13) and 10-310</u>
- 10 <u>Annotated Code of Maryland</u>
- 11 (1995 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)
- 12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
- 13 Article Transportation
- 14 Section 11-168, 21-201, and 21-202(h), 21-204, and 26-305
- 15 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 16 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

17 BY adding to

- 18 Article Transportation
- 19 Section 21-202.1
- 20 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 21 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)
- 22 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
- 23 <u>Article Transportation</u>
- 24 <u>Section 26-305 and 26-401</u>
- 25 <u>Annotated Code of Maryland</u>
- 26 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)
- 27 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
- 28 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

29 Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings

- 30 <u>4-401.</u>
- Except as provided in § 4-402 of this subtitle, and subject to the venue provisions of
 Title 6 of this article, the District Court has exclusive original civil jurisdiction in:
- 33 (11) A proceeding for adjudication of a civil penalty for any violation under §
- 34 5-1001 of the Environment Article of the Code or under § 2-101(c-1) of Article 41 of the
- 35 Code or any rule or regulation issued pursuant to those sections; [and]

3

1 (12) A proceeding to enforce a civil penalty assessed by the Maryland

2 Division of Labor and Industry under Title 5 of the Labor and Employment Article where

3 the amount involved does not exceed \$20,000; AND

4 (13) A PROCEEDING FOR A CIVIL INFRACTION UNDER § 21-202.1 OF THE 5 TRANSPORTATION ARTICLE.

6 <u>10-310.</u>

A RECORDED IMAGE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE PRODUCED BY A TRAFFIC
 CONTROL SIGNAL MONITORING SYSTEM IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 21-202.1 OF THE
 TRANSPORTATION ARTICLE IS ADMISSIBLE IN A PROCEEDING CONCERNING A CIVIL
 CITATION ISSUED UNDER THAT SECTION FOR A VIOLATION OF § 21-202(H) OF THE
 TRANSPORTATION ARTICLE WITHOUT AUTHENTICATION.

12 Article - Transportation

13 11-168.

"Traffic control signal" means any traffic control device, whether manually,
electrically, or mechanically operated, by which traffic alternately isdirected to stop and
permitted to proceed.

17 21-201.

(a) (1) Subject to the exceptions granted in this title to the driver of an
emergency vehicle, the driver of any vehicle, unless otherwise directedby a police officer,
shall obey the instructions of any traffic control device applicable to the vehicle and
placed in accordance with the Maryland Vehicle Law.

(2) The driver of a vehicle approaching an intersection controlled by a
traffic control device may not drive across private property or leave the roadway for the
purpose of avoiding the instructions of a traffic control device.

(b) (1) If a provision of the Maryland Vehicle Law or of an ordinance or
regulation of a local authority requires a traffic control device, the provision is
unenforceable against an alleged violator if, at the time and place of the alleged violation,
the traffic control device is not in proper position and legible enoughto be seen by an
ordinarily observant individual.

(2) Unless a provision of the Maryland Vehicle Law or of an ordinance or
regulation of a local authority states that a traffic control device isrequired, the provision
is effective and enforceable even if no traffic control device is in place.

(c) Unless the contrary is established by competent evidence, if a traffic control
device is placed in a position approximately meeting the requirements of the Maryland
Vehicle Law, the device is presumed to have been placed by the officialact or direction
of lawful authority.

(d) Unless the contrary is established by competent evidence, if a traffic control
device is placed in accordance with the Maryland Vehicle Law and purports to meet the
lawful requirements governing these devices, the device is presumed to meet the
requirements of the Maryland Vehicle Law.

1 21-202. 2 (h) Vehicular traffic facing a steady red signal alone: 3 (1) Shall stop at the near side of the intersection: 4 (i) At a clearly marked stop line; 5 (ii) If there is no clearly marked stop line, before entering any 6 crosswalk; or 7 (iii) If there is no crosswalk, before entering the intersection; and 8 (2) Except as provided in subsections (i), (j), and (k) of thissection, shall 9 remain stopped until a signal to proceed is shown. 10 21-202.1. 11 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS 12 INDICATED. 13 (2) "AGENCY" MEANS A STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OR A LAW 14 ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OF A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION THAT IS AUTHORIZED TO 15 ISSUE CITATIONS FOR A VIOLATION OF THE MARYLAND VEHICLE LAW OR OF LOCAL 16 TRAFFIC LAWS OR REGULATIONS. 17 (3) (I) "OWNER" MEANS THE REGISTERED OWNER OF A MOTOR 18 VEHICLE OR A LESSEE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE UNDER A LEASE OF 6 MONTHS OR 19 MORE. 20 (II) "OWNER" DOES NOT INCLUDE A MOTOR VEHICLE RENTAL OR 21 LEASING COMPANY. 22 (3) (4) "RECORDED IMAGES" MEANS IMAGES RECORDED BY A 23 TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNAL MONITORING SYSTEM ON: 24 (I) TWO OR MORE PHOTOGRAPHS; 25 (II) TWO OR MORE MICROPHOTOGRAPHS; OR 26 (III) TWO OR MORE ELECTRONIC IMAGES; OR 27 (III) (IV) VIDEOTAPE. 28 (4) (5) "TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNAL MONITORING SYSTEM" MEANS A 29 DEVICE WITH ONE OR MORE MOTOR VEHICLE SENSOR INSTALLED TO WORK 30 SENSORS WORKING IN CONJUNCTION WITH A TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNAL TO 31 PRODUCE RECORDED IMAGES OF MOTOR VEHICLES PASSING THROUGH ENTERING 32 AN INTERSECTION AGAINST A RED SIGNAL INDICATION. 33 (B) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO A VIOLATION OF § 21-202(H) OR § 21-204 OF THIS

34 SUBTITLE AT AN INTERSECTION MONITORED BY A TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNAL 35 MONITORING SYSTEM.

(C) (+) UNLESS THE DRIVER OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE RECEIVED A
 CITATION FROM A POLICE OFFICER AT THE TIME OF THE VIOLATION, THE OWNER
 OF A MOTOR VEHICLE IS SUBJECT TO A FINE CIVIL PENALTY OF NOT MORE THAN
 \$100 IF THE MOTOR VEHICLE IS RECORDED BY A TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNAL
 MONITORING SYSTEM WHILE BEING OPERATED IN VIOLATION OF § 21-202(H) OR \$
 6 21-204 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

7 (2) SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SUBSECTION (D)(2) OR (3) OF THIS
8 SECTION, THE OWNER OF A MOTOR VEHICLE IS LIABLE UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF
9 THIS SUBSECTION WHETHER THE MOTOR VEHICLE WAS DRIVEN BY THE OWNER OR
10 ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL AT THE TIME OF THE VIOLATION.

(D) (1) SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS
 SUBSECTION, A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OR AUTHORIZED STATE AN AGENCY SHALL
 MAIL TO THE OWNER LIABLE UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION A CITATION
 WHICH SHALL INCLUDE:

15 (I) THE VIOLATION CHARGED;

16 (II) THE LOCATION OF THE INTERSECTION;

17 (III) THE DATE AND TIME OF THE VIOLATION;

18 (IV) A COPY OF THE RECORDED IMAGE;

(IV) (V) THE AMOUNT OF THE FINE CIVIL PENALTY IMPOSED
 AND THE DATE BY WHICH THE FINE CIVIL PENALTY SHOULD BE PAID, AS
 ESTABLISHED BY THE ADMINISTRATION BY REGULATION;

(V) (VI) A SIGNED STATEMENT BY A TECHNICIAN EMPLOYED BY
THE POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OR AUTHORIZED STATE AGENCY THAT, BASED ON
INSPECTION OF RECORDED IMAGES, THE MOTOR VEHICLE WAS BEING OPERATED
IN VIOLATION OF § 21-202(H) OR § 21-204 OF THIS SUBTILE;

26(VI)(VII)A STATEMENT THAT RECORDED IMAGES ARE PRIMA27FACIE EVIDENCE OF A VIOLATION OF § 21-202(H)OR § 21-204 OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND

(VII) (VIII) A STATEMENT THAT THE OWNER MAY REQUEST A
 HEARING BEFORE AN OFFICER OF THE POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OR
 ADMINISTRATION AND THAT, ON REQUEST, THE OWNER MAY RECEIVE COPIES OF
 THE RECORDED IMAGES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS OF THE
 ADMINISTRATION, INFORMING THE PERSON ALLEGED TO BE LIABLE UNDER THIS
 SECTION:
 <u>1. OF THE MANNER AND TIME IN WHICH LIABILITY AS</u>
 ALLEGED IN THE CITATION MAY BE CONTESTED IN THE DISTRICT COURT; AND
 <u>2. THAT FAILURE TO PAY THE CIVIL PENALTY OR TO</u>

37 CONTEST LIABILITY IN A TIMELY MANNER IS AN ADMISSION OF LIABILITY AND MAY

38 RESULT IN REFUSAL OR SUSPENSION OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION.

1 (2) THE POLITICAL SUBDIVISION AGENCY MAY MAIL A WARNING 2 NOTICE IN LIEU OF A CITATION TO THE OWNER LIABLE UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF **3 THIS SECTION.** 4 (3) (I) AN OWNER WHO RECEIVES A CITATION UNDER PARAGRAPH 5 (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION MAY REQUEST A HEARING: 1. PAY THE CIVIL PENALTY TO THE DISTRICT COURT IN 6 7 ACCORDANCE WITH THE INFORMATION ON THE CITATION; OR 8 2. ELECT TO STAND TRIAL FOR THE ALLEGED VIOLATION. (II) IF AN OWNER REQUESTING A HEARING UNDER THIS 9 10 PARAGRAPH REOUESTS A COPY OF THE RECORDED IMAGES. THE POLITICAL 11 SUBDIVISION OR AUTHORIZED STATE AGENCY SHALL MAIL A COPY OF THE 12 RECORDED IMAGES TO THE OWNER AT LEAST 5 DAYS BEFORE THE SCHEDULED 13 DATE OF THE HEARING. 14 (III) AT A HEARING REQUESTED UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH, THE 15 DEFENSES THAT THE HEARING OFFICER THE DISTRICT COURT MAY CONSIDER ARE 16 IN DEFENSE OF A VIOLATION: 17 1. THAT THE DRIVER OF THE VEHICLE PASSED THROUGH 18 THE INTERSECTION IN VIOLATION OF § 21-202(H) OR § 21-204 OF THIS SUBTITLE: 19 A. IN ORDER TO YIELD THE RIGHT-OF-WAY TO AN 20 EMERGENCY VEHICLE: OR B. AS PART OF A FUNERAL PROCESSION IN ACCORDANCE 21 22 WITH § 21-207 OF THIS SUBTITLE; 2. SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (IV) (III) OF THIS 23 24 PARAGRAPH, THAT THE MOTOR VEHICLE OR REGISTRATION PLATES OF THE 25 MOTOR VEHICLE WERE STOLEN BEFORE THE VIOLATION OCCURRED AND WERE 26 NOT UNDER THE CONTROL OR POSSESSION OF THE OWNER AT THE TIME OF THE 27 VIOLATION; AND 28 3. THAT UNDER § 21-201 OF THIS SUBTITLE, THIS SECTIONIS 29 UNENFORCEABLE AGAINST THE OWNER BECAUSE AT THE TIME AND PLACE OF THE 30 ALLEGED VIOLATION, THE TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNAL WAS NOT IN PROPER 31 POSITION AND LEGIBLE ENOUGH TO BE SEEN BY AN ORDINARILY OBSERVANT 32 INDIVIDUAL; AND 33 4. ANY OTHER ISSUES AND EVIDENCE THAT THE COURT 34 DEEMS PERTINENT. 35 (IV) (III) IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE MOTOR 36 VEHICLE OR THE REGISTRATION PLATES WERE STOLEN BEFORE THE VIOLATION 37 OCCURRED AND WERE NOT UNDER THE CONTROL OR POSSESSION OF THE OWNER

38 AT THE TIME OF THE VIOLATION, THE OWNER MUST SUBMIT PROOF THAT A POLICE39 REPORT ABOUT THE STOLEN MOTOR VEHICLE OR REGISTRATION PLATES WAS

40 FILED BEFORE THE VIOLATION OCCURRED IN A TIMELY MANNER.

(V) (IV) RECORDED IMAGES PRESENTED AT A HEARING ARE
 PRIMA FACIE ADMISSIBLE EVIDENCE OF A VIOLATION OF § 21-202(H) OR § 21-204 OF
 THIS SUBTITLE.

4 (VI) IF THE HEARING OFFICER FINDS AGAINST THE OWNER, THE
5 OWNER SHALL PAY THE FINE WITHIN 7 DAYS OF RECEIVING NOTICE OF
6 DISPOSITION.

7 (E) IF THE OWNER OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE DOES NOT PAY THE FINE <u>CIVIL</u>
8 <u>PENALTY OR ELECT TO CONTEST THE VIOLATION</u> BY THE DATE ESTABLISHED
9 <u>UNDER THIS SECTION</u> <u>PROVIDED IN THE CITATION</u>:

(1) THE ADMINISTRATION MAY <u>REFUSE TO REGISTER OR REREGISTER</u>
 OR MAY SUSPEND THE REGISTRATION OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE; AND

12 (2) THE POLITICAL SUBDIVISION IN WHICH THE MOTOR VEHICLE IS13 LOCATED MAY IMMOBILIZE OR IMPOUND THE MOTOR VEHICLE.

(F) A VIOLATION FOR WHICH A FINE <u>CIVIL PENALTY</u> IS IMPOSED UNDER THIS
 SECTION:

16 (1) IS NOT A MOVING VIOLATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASSESSING
17 POINTS UNDER § 16-402 OF THIS ARTICLE <u>AND MAY NOT BE RECORDED BY THE</u>
18 <u>ADMINISTRATION ON THE DRIVING RECORD OF THE OWNER OF THE VEHICLE;</u>

19 (2) MAY BE TREATED AS A PARKING VIOLATION FOR PURPOSES OF §20 26-305 OF THIS ARTICLE; AND

21 (3) MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED IN THE PROVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLE22 INSURANCE COVERAGE.

(G) (1) (+) THE POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OR AUTHORIZED STATE AGENCY
IN POSSESSION OF RECORDED IMAGES OF A MOTOR VEHICLE BEING OPERATED IN
VIOLATION OF § 21-202(H) OR § 21-204 OF THIS SUBTITLE SHALL RETAIN THE
RECORDED IMAGES FOR AT LEAST 3 YEARS FROM THE DATE OF THE VIOLATION
AND SHALL MAKE THE RECORDED IMAGES AVAILABLE TO ANY PARTY IN ANY
JUDICIAL OR ARBITRAL PROCEEDING.

29 (2) BY REQUEST, A DEFENDANT MAY INSPECT AND COPY ANY
 30 RECORDED IMAGES OF THE DEFENDANT AT LEAST 10 DAYS PRIOR TO A
 31 PROCEEDING CONDUCTED UNDER THIS SECTION.

32 (2) RECORDED IMAGES ARE ADMISSIBLE IN AN ACTION AT LAW
 33 WITHOUT AUTHENTICATION.

34 21-204.

35 (a) If a flashing red or yellow light is used in a traffic signal or with a traffic sign,
 36 it requires obedience by vehicular traffic as provided in this section.

- 37 (b) If a red lens is lit with rapid intermittent flashes, the driverof a vehicle shall
- 38 stop at the near side of the intersection at a clearly marked stop line.

(c) If a red lens is lit with rapid intermittent flashes, the driverof a vehicle shall 1 2 stop at the near side of the intersection, if there is no clearly marked stop line, before 3 entering any crosswalk. 4 (d) If a red lens is lit with rapid intermittent flashes, the driverof a vehicle shall 5 stop at the near side of the intersection, if there is no crosswalk, before entering the 6 intersection. 7 (e) The right to proceed after making the stop is subject to the rules applicable 8 after making a stop at a stop sign. 9 (f) If a yellow lens is lit with rapid intermittent flashes, the driver of a vehicle may 10 proceed through the intersection or past the signal only with caution. 11 (g) This section does not apply at any railroad grade crossing. 12 26-305. 13 (a) The Administration may not register or transfer the registration of any vehicle 14 involved in a parking violation under this subtitle or, a violation under any federal parking 15 regulation that applies to property in this State under the jurisdiction of the U.S. government, OR A VIOLATION OF § 21-202(H) OF THIS ARTICLE AS DETERMINED 16 17 UNDER <u>§ 1-202.1</u> § 21-202.1 OF THIS ARTICLE if: 18 (1) It is notified by a political subdivision or authorized State agency that a 19 person cited for a violation under this subtitle OR § 22-202.1 OF THIS ARTICLE has failed 20 to either: 21 (i) Pay the fine for the violation by the date specified in the citation; 22 or 23 (ii) File a notice of his intention to stand trial for theviolation; (2) It is notified by the District Court that a person who has elected to stand 24 25 trial for the violation under this subtitle OR UNDER § 22-202.1 OF THISARTICLE has 26 failed to appear for trial; or 27 (3) It is notified by a U.S. District Court that a person cited for a violation 28 under a federal parking regulation: 29 (i) Has failed to pay the fine for the violation by the date specified in 30 the federal citation: or 31 (ii) Either has failed to file a notice of his intention to stand trial for 32 the violation, or, if electing to stand trial, has failed to appear fortrial. 33 (b) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, the 34 Administration may suspend the registration of a vehicle involved in a parking violation 35 under this subtitle or a violation under any federal parking regulation that applies to 36 property in this State under the jurisdiction of the U.S. government ifnotified in

37 accordance with subsection (a) of this section that the violator is a chronic offender.

1 (2) The Administration may adopt rules and regulations to define chronic 2 offender and develop procedures to carry out the suspension of registration as authorized 3 by this subsection.

4 (c) The Administration shall continue the suspension and refusal to register or 5 transfer a registration of the vehicle until:

6 (1) If the suspension or refusal was required under subsection (a)(1) or 7 (b)(1) of this section, the political subdivision or State agency notifies the Administration 8 that the charge has been satisfied;

9 (2) If the suspension or refusal was required under subsection (a)(2) or 10 (b)(1) of this section, the District Court notifies the Administration that the person cited 11 has appeared for trial or has pleaded guilty and paid the fine for the violation; or

12 (3) If the suspension or refusal was required under subsection (a)(3) or 13 (b)(1) of this section, the U.S. District Court notifies the Administration that the charge 14 has been satisfied.

(d) (1) If the registration of the vehicle has been suspended in accordance withsubsection (b)(1) of this section, a person may not drive the vehicle on any highway in thisState.

18 (2) A person convicted under paragraph (1) of this subsection is subject to19 the penalty set forth in § 27-101(b) of this article.

20 (e) The procedures specified in this section are in addition to any other penalty 21 provided by law for the failure to pay a fine or stand trial for a parking violation.

(f) The Administration shall adopt procedures by which the political subdivisions,
State agencies, the District Court, and the U.S. District Court shall notify it of any
restrictions and any rescission of restrictions placed on the registration of vehicles under
this section.

(g) (1) In addition to any other fee or penalty provided by law, an owner of a
vehicle who is denied registration of the vehicle under the provisions of this section shall
pay a fee established by the Administration before renewal of the registration of the
vehicle.

30 (2) The fee described under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be
31 retained by the Administration and may not be credited to the Gasoline and Motor
32 Vehicle Revenue Account for distribution under § 8-403 or § 8-404 of this article.

33 <u>26-401.</u>

If a person is taken before a District Court commissioner or is given a traffic
 citation OR A CIVIL CITATION UNDER § 21-202.1 OF THIS ARTICLE containing a notice to
 appear in court, the commissioner or court shall be one that sits within the county in
 which the offense allegedly was committed.

38 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, <u>That the State Highway</u> 39 Administration shall provide appropriate funding at a level and under terms that the

- 1 State Highway Administration deems feasible to political subdivisions for the installation
- 2 of traffic control signal monitoring systems.
- 3 <u>SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED</u>, That this Act shall take effect 4 October 1, 1996.