

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 204

(Delegate Korman, *et al.*)

Environment and Transportation

Judicial Proceedings

Traffic Control Signal Monitoring Systems – Yellow Signal Compliance

This bill prohibits the issuance of a citation for a violation recorded by a traffic control signal monitoring system (*i.e.*, a red light camera system) if the signal does not display a yellow light in compliance with State and federal standards.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. Local jurisdictions already must ensure that traffic control signals at intersections monitored by red light cameras comply with State and federal standards.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The agency primarily responsible for traffic control at an intersection monitored by a red light camera must ensure that the length of a yellow light is set in accordance with regulations adopted by the State Highway Administration (SHA) consistent with standards or guidelines established by the Federal Highway Administration. According to SHA regulations, on any approach to a traffic signal where a red light camera is in use, the relevant agency must ensure that the yellow change interval on that approach is not shorter in duration than that determined by a specified formula. However, certain adjustments must be made. First, the calculated yellow change interval must be rounded up to the nearest half second. Second, if the calculated yellow change interval is *less* than 3.0 seconds, then the interval must be set at 3.0 seconds. Third, if the calculated interval is *greater* than 6.0 seconds, then the interval must be set at 6.0 seconds.

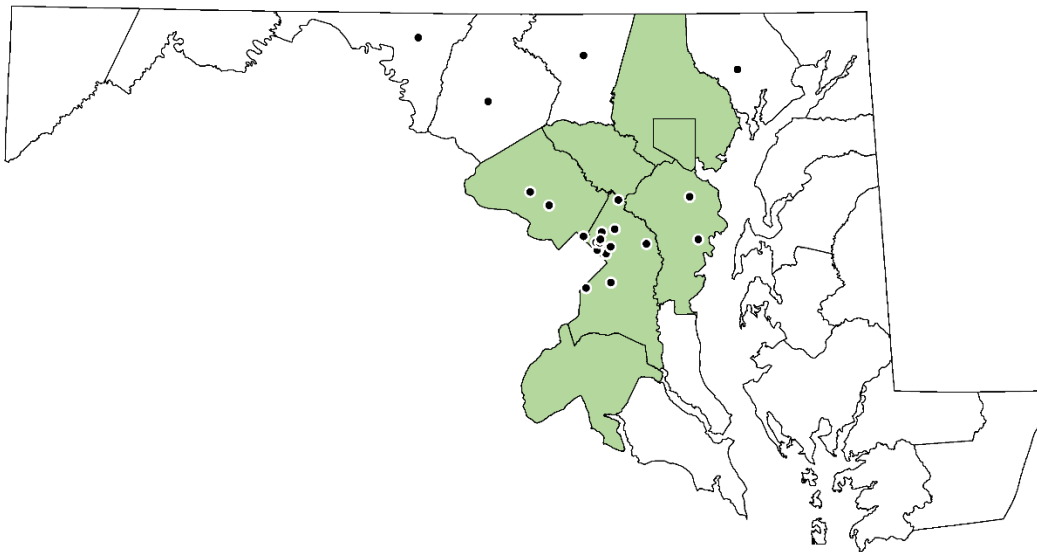
Traffic Control Signal Monitoring Systems (Red Light Cameras)

Unless the driver of a motor vehicle receives a citation from a police officer at the time of the violation, the owner or driver of a vehicle recorded by a red light monitoring system entering an intersection against a red signal in violation of the Maryland Vehicle Law is subject to a civil penalty of up to \$100. Red light camera enforcement applies to a violation of specified Maryland Vehicle Law requirements applicable to a vehicle approaching a steady circular red signal or arrow, including (1) stopping at a clearly marked stop line, or crosswalk if there is no stop line, or intersection if there is no crosswalk, and (2) remaining stopped until a signal allows the vehicle to proceed.

A driver is specifically authorized under the Maryland Vehicle Law to cautiously enter an intersection to make a right turn (or left turn from a one-way street to another one-way street) after stopping at a steady red light, unless a sign otherwise prohibits the turn.

According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, 422 jurisdictions across the nation have red light camera programs as of January 2018. In Maryland, six counties, Baltimore City, and 22 other jurisdictions use red light cameras. **Exhibit 1** shows red light camera usage across the State as of January 2018.

Exhibit 1
Local Red Light Camera Enforcement in Maryland
January 2018



Note: ● represents municipal corporations that operate red light camera systems; ■ represents counties that operate red light camera systems.

Source: Insurance Institute for Highway Safety; Department of Legislative Services

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Insurance Institute for Highway Safety; Harford and Montgomery counties; City of College Park; Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 7, 2018
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Analysis by: Eric F. Pierce

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510