

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2021 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader**

Senate Bill 888

(Senator Beidle)

Judicial Proceedings

Environment and Transportation

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**Anne Arundel County - Speed Monitoring Systems - Maryland Route 175**  
**(Jessup Road)**

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This bill authorizes the placement of speed monitoring systems (speed cameras) in Anne Arundel County on Maryland Route 175 (Jessup Road) between the Maryland Route 175/295 interchange and the Anne Arundel County-Howard County line, subject to existing signage and placement requirements for speed cameras.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** General fund revenues may increase negligibly beginning in FY 2022 due to additional contested cases in District Court. Expenditures are not materially affected.

**Local Effect:** Local revenues increase beginning in FY 2022 to the extent speed cameras are placed as authorized, as discussed below. Expenditures increase for installation and maintenance, with the remaining amounts reserved for public safety purposes.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential minimal.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Speed monitoring systems must be authorized in a local jurisdiction by the governing body of the jurisdiction (but only after reasonable notice and a public hearing). Before activating a speed monitoring system, a local jurisdiction must publish notice of the location of the speed monitoring system on its website and in a newspaper of general circulation in the jurisdiction. In addition, the jurisdiction must also ensure that each sign that designates a school zone is proximate to a sign that (1) indicates that speed monitoring

systems are in use in the school zone and (2) conforms with specified traffic control device standards adopted by the State Highway Administration.

From the fines generated by a speed monitoring system, the relevant jurisdiction may recover the costs of implementing the system and may spend any remaining balance solely for public safety purposes, including for pedestrian safety programs. However, if the balance of revenues after cost recovery for any fiscal year is greater than 10% of the jurisdiction's total revenues, the excess must be remitted to the Comptroller.

**State Fiscal Effect:** Under the bill, the number of citations issued in Anne Arundel County is expected to increase. As a result, the number of individuals opting for a trial in District Court is also likely to increase. Accordingly, general fund revenues may increase negligibly, as fine revenues paid by individuals convicted in District Court are paid into the general fund. The increase in District Court caseloads can be handled with existing resources.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** Local revenues increase beginning in fiscal 2022 to the extent that the authorization to place speed cameras is used.

Likewise, if the authorization is used, expenditures increase beginning in fiscal 2022 to procure, install, and maintain the additional camera(s). Based on historical data and the use of speed camera systems in the State to date, the increase in revenues is likely to exceed the increase in expenditures. After cost recovery, the remaining revenues may only be expended for public safety purposes. Thus, expenditures also increase for public safety purposes.

Although the exact increase in revenues cannot be projected because the number of cameras that might be placed and the number of citations that might be issued in the area affected by the bill is unknown, *for illustrative purposes only*, local revenues increase by \$71,175 in fiscal 2022 (reflecting the bill's October 1, 2021 effective date) and by \$94,900 in subsequent years under the following assumptions:

- one speed camera is placed in the area authorized by the bill;
- the speed camera captures an average of 10 violations per day;
- 65% of violators prepay the fine (at \$40); and
- 35% of violators contest the citation in District Court.

## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 3, 2021  
rh/ljm Third Reader - April 6, 2021

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