

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 619

(Prince George's County Delegation)

Environment and Transportation

Judicial Proceedings

Prince George's County - Speed Monitoring Systems - Residential Districts
PG 302-21

This bill authorizes the placement of speed monitoring systems (speed cameras) in Prince George's County on highways in residential districts with a maximum posted speed limit of 35 miles per hour.

Fiscal Summary

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

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

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

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.

In Montgomery County only, speed monitoring systems may be used on a highway in a residential district with a maximum posted speed limit of 35 miles per hour.

State Fiscal Effect: Under the bill, the number of citations issued in Prince George's County (and in municipalities within the 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 likely increase minimally, as fine revenues paid by individuals convicted in District Court are paid into the general fund. The increase in District Court caseloads can likely be handled with existing resources.

Local Fiscal Effect: Local revenues increase, potentially significantly, beginning in fiscal 2022 to the extent that Prince George's County (and municipalities within the county) authorize additional speed cameras as a result of the bill. Expenditures also increase for those jurisdictions beginning in fiscal 2022 to procure, install, and maintain additional speed cameras. 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.

According to data from the Comptroller's Office, revenues generated from speed camera fines in Prince George's County have generally decreased as compliance has increased. As shown in **Exhibit 1**, in fiscal 2019 (the most recent year for which data was available), the county generated about \$6.1 million in total fine revenues, compared to \$13.1 million in fiscal 2013. (These amounts are exclusive of local municipalities within Prince George's County that operate their own speed monitoring systems.) In each year, the county has recovered its costs of implementation and had additional monies available to spend on public safety.

Exhibit 1
Revenues from Speed Monitoring Systems in Prince George's County
Fiscal 2013-2019

	<u>Fine Revenues</u>	<u>Implementation Costs</u>	<u>Net Revenues</u>
Fiscal 2013	\$13,112,169	\$5,348,612	\$7,763,557
Fiscal 2014	10,254,966	4,681,911	5,573,055
Fiscal 2015	8,515,818	3,915,888	4,599,930
Fiscal 2016	8,759,276	4,274,963	4,484,313
Fiscal 2017	7,173,439	4,054,274	3,119,165
Fiscal 2018	6,894,036	4,132,890	2,761,147
Fiscal 2019	6,050,877	4,108,480	1,942,398

Source: Comptroller's Office; Department of Legislative Services

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 1433 of 2020, a similar bill, received a hearing in the House Environment and Transportation Committee, but no further action was taken.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County; Department of Legislative Services

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