

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2023 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 431 (Prince George's County Delegation)
Environment and Transportation

**Prince George's County – Speed Monitoring Systems on Maryland Route 210
(Indian Head Highway) – Penalties PG 303–23**

This bill intends to increase civil penalties for speed monitoring system (speed camera) violations on Maryland Route 210 (Indian Head Highway) in Prince George's County. The bill also intends to establish additional civil penalties for second or subsequent violations captured by speed cameras on Maryland Route 210.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Likely none as the authorization for speed cameras on Indian Head Highway terminates before this bill takes effect.

Local Effect: Likely none as the authorization for speed cameras on Indian Head Highway terminates before this bill takes effect.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary/Current Law: Under current law, the civil penalty for a citation issued through a speed monitoring system is capped at \$40 and is payable to the political subdivision operating the speed monitoring system; otherwise, the citation may be contested in District Court. The District Court must prescribe a uniform citation form, as specified, and a civil penalty, which must be indicated on the citation, to be paid by persons who choose to prepay the civil penalty without appearing in District Court.

After cost recovery, fines collected by Prince George's County as a result of violations enforced by the three speed cameras authorized on Maryland Route 210 must be remitted

to the Comptroller for distribution to the State Highway Administration (SHA). SHA must solely use those fine revenues to assist in covering the costs of (1) examining the engineering, infrastructure, and other relevant factors that may contribute to safety issues on Maryland Route 210; (2) reporting its findings and recommendations on any solutions to these safety issues; and (3) implementing any solutions to these safety issues. The authorization for speed monitoring systems on Maryland Route 210 is not affected by this bill and, consequently, terminates September 30, 2023.

Exhibit 1 shows the *intended* tiered civil penalty levels for citations issued through a speed monitoring system on Maryland Route 210 under the bill. The additional fine levels for second or subsequent violations within a two-year period are also shown in Exhibit 1. Those civil penalties are *in addition to* the underlying penalty for exceeding the speed limit by a specified level. However, as noted above, these penalties have no effect since, when this bill takes effect, the authorization for speed monitoring systems on Maryland Route 210 will have terminated.

Exhibit 1
Intended Penalties for Speed Camera Violations
Under Current Law and the Bill
Maryland Route 210 (Indian Head Highway)

<u>Exceeding Posted Speed Limit by:</u>	<u>Current Civil Penalty</u>	<u>Civil Penalty Under the Bill</u>
12-21 miles per hour		\$40
22-31 miles per hour		90
32-41 miles per hour	\$40	160
42-51 miles per hour		290
52+ miles per hour		530
		Additional Civil Penalty Under the Bill*
<u>Subsequent Violations (within 2-year period)</u>		
Second violation		\$50
Third violation		150
Fourth violation		250
Fifth violation		300
Sixth or subsequent		350

* These amounts are in addition to the higher civil penalties intended to be established for exceeding the speed limit by a specified level

Source: Department of Legislative Services

Additional Comments: If the authorization for speed monitoring systems on Maryland Route 210 were extended, the bill would have significant operational impacts on the District Court. General fund revenues due to contested citations would likely increase significantly. Likewise, Transportation Trust Fund revenues and expenditures for the SHA would also likely increase significantly.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County; Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 23, 2023
rh/ljm

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