

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2023 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 679

(Anne Arundel County Senators)

Judicial Proceedings

Environment and Transportation

Anne Arundel County - Speed Monitoring Systems - Residential Districts

This bill authorizes the placement of speed monitoring systems (speed cameras) in Anne Arundel 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 2024 due to additional contested cases in District Court. Expenditures are not materially affected.

Local Effect: Local revenues increase, potentially significantly, beginning in FY 2024 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 and Prince George's counties 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 Anne Arundel 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 2024 to the extent that Anne Arundel 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 2024 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.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: HB 710 (Delegate Bagnall) - Environment and Transportation.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History:
rh/ljm

First Reader - March 1, 2023
Third Reader - March 20, 2023

Analysis by: Eric F. Pierce

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