

HOUSE BILL 1226

R5

5lr3377
CF SB 600

By: **Delegates Young, Addison, Amprey, Boyce, Edelson, Embry, R. Lewis, Ruff, and Smith**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2025

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 22, 2025

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Baltimore City and Takoma Park – Stop Sign Monitoring Systems –**
3 **Authorization**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the use of stop sign monitoring systems in school zones in
5 Baltimore City and the City of Takoma Park under the pilot program authorized for
6 Prince George’s County, if authorized by local law; ~~providing that the owner or driver~~
7 ~~of a motor vehicle recorded failing to obey a stop sign is subject to a citation and a~~
8 ~~certain civil penalty under certain circumstances; establishing certain defenses to a~~
9 ~~charge of an alleged violation recorded by a stop sign monitoring system; prohibiting~~
10 ~~a contractor administering a stop sign monitoring system from being compensated~~
11 ~~in a certain manner;~~ and generally relating to the use of stop sign monitoring
12 systems in Baltimore City and the City of Takoma Park.

13 ~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~
14 ~~Article — Courts and Judicial Proceedings~~
15 ~~Section 4-401(13), 7-302(e)(1)(i), and 10-311(g)~~
16 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
17 ~~(2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)~~

18 ~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~
19 ~~Article — Courts and Judicial Proceedings~~
20 ~~Section 7-302(e)(1) through (4) and 10-311(f)~~
21 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
22 ~~(2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)~~

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



~~(As enacted by Section 3 of Chapter 678 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2024)~~

~~BY adding to~~

~~Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings~~

~~Section 10–311(f)~~

~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~

~~(2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)~~

~~(As enacted by Section 3 of Chapter 678 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2024)~~

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

Section 7–302(e)(4)(i)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Transportation

Section 21–707

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY ~~adding to~~ repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Transportation

Section ~~21–707.2~~ 21–707.1

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

~~**Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**~~

~~7–302.~~

~~(e) (1) (i) A citation issued pursuant to § 21–202.1, § 21–706.1, § 21–707.1, § 21–707.2, § 21–809, § 21–810, § 21–1134, § 22–612, or § 24–111.3 of the Transportation Article shall provide that the person receiving the citation may elect to stand trial by notifying the issuing agency of the person’s intention to stand trial at least 5 days prior to the date of payment as set forth in the citation.~~

~~10–311.~~

~~(g) A recorded image of a motor vehicle produced by a stop sign monitoring system in accordance with § 21–707.1 OR § 21–707.2 of the Transportation Article is admissible in a proceeding concerning a civil citation issued under that section for a violation of § 21–707 of the Transportation Article without authentication.~~

1 ~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read~~
2 ~~as follows:~~

3 ~~Article—Courts and Judicial Proceedings~~

4 ~~7-302.~~

5 ~~(e) (1) (i) A citation issued pursuant to § 21-202.1, § 21-706.1, § 21-707.2,~~
6 ~~§ 21-809, § 21-810, § 21-1134, or § 24-111.3 of the Transportation Article shall provide~~
7 ~~that the person receiving the citation may elect to stand trial by notifying the issuing~~
8 ~~agency of the person's intention to stand trial at least 5 days prior to the date of payment~~
9 ~~as set forth in the citation.~~

10 ~~(ii) On receipt of the notice to stand trial, the agency shall forward~~
11 ~~to the District Court having venue a copy of the citation and a copy of the notice from the~~
12 ~~person who received the citation indicating the person's intention to stand trial.~~

13 ~~(iii) On receipt thereof, the District Court shall schedule the case for~~
14 ~~trial and notify the defendant of the trial date under procedures adopted by the Chief Judge~~
15 ~~of the District Court.~~

16 ~~(2) (i) A citation issued as the result of a vehicle height monitoring~~
17 ~~system, a traffic control signal monitoring system, a speed monitoring system, a work zone~~
18 ~~speed control system OR A STOP SIGN MONITORING SYSTEM controlled by a political~~
19 ~~subdivision, a school bus monitoring camera, or a bus lane monitoring system shall provide~~
20 ~~that, in an uncontested case, the penalty shall be paid directly to that political subdivision.~~

21 ~~(ii) A citation issued as the result of a traffic control signal~~
22 ~~monitoring system or a work zone speed control system controlled by a State agency, or as~~
23 ~~a result of a vehicle height monitoring system, a traffic control signal monitoring system, a~~
24 ~~speed monitoring system, A STOP SIGN MONITORING SYSTEM, a school bus monitoring~~
25 ~~camera, or a bus lane monitoring system in a case contested in District Court, shall provide~~
26 ~~that the penalty shall be paid directly to the District Court.~~

27 ~~(3) Civil penalties resulting from citations issued using a vehicle height~~
28 ~~monitoring system, traffic control signal monitoring system, speed monitoring system,~~
29 ~~work zone speed control system, STOP SIGN MONITORING SYSTEM, school bus monitoring~~
30 ~~camera, or bus lane monitoring system that are collected by the District Court shall be~~
31 ~~collected in accordance with subsection (a) of this section and distributed in accordance~~
32 ~~with § 12-118 of the Transportation Article.~~

33 ~~(4) (i) Except as provided in paragraph (5) of this subsection, from the~~
34 ~~finer collected by a political subdivision as a result of violations enforced by speed~~
35 ~~monitoring systems, work zone speed control systems, STOP SIGN MONITORING~~
36 ~~SYSTEMS, school bus monitoring cameras, or bus lane monitoring systems, a political~~
37 ~~subdivision.~~

~~1 1. May recover the costs of implementing and administering
2 the speed monitoring systems, work zone speed control systems, STOP SIGN MONITORING
3 SYSTEMS, school bus monitoring cameras, or bus lane monitoring systems; and~~

~~4 2. Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, may spend
5 any remaining balance solely for public safety purposes, including pedestrian or highway
6 safety programs.~~

~~7 (ii) 1. For any fiscal year, if the balance remaining from the fines
8 collected by a political subdivision as a result of violations enforced by speed monitoring
9 systems, after the costs of implementing and administering the systems are recovered in
10 accordance with subparagraph (i)1 of this paragraph, is greater than 10% of the total
11 revenues of the political subdivision for the fiscal year, the political subdivision shall remit
12 any funds that exceed 10% of the total revenues to the Comptroller.~~

~~13 2. The Comptroller shall deposit any money remitted under
14 this subparagraph to the General Fund of the State.~~

~~15 10-311.~~

~~16 (F) A RECORDED IMAGE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE PRODUCED BY A STOP SIGN
17 MONITORING SYSTEM IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 21-707.2 OF THE TRANSPORTATION
18 ARTICLE IS ADMISSIBLE IN A PROCEEDING CONCERNING A CIVIL CITATION ISSUED
19 UNDER THAT SECTION FOR A VIOLATION OF § 21-707.2 OF THE TRANSPORTATION
20 ARTICLE WITHOUT AUTHENTICATION.~~

~~21 [(f)] (G) In any other judicial proceeding, a recorded image produced by a vehicle
22 height monitoring system, traffic control signal monitoring system, speed monitoring
23 system, work zone speed control system, STOP SIGN MONITORING SYSTEM, school bus
24 monitoring camera, or bus lane monitoring system is admissible as otherwise provided by
25 law.~~

~~26 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read
27 as follows:~~

~~28 Article — Courts and Judicial Proceedings~~

~~29 4-401.~~

~~30 Except as provided in § 4-402 of this subtitle, and subject to the venue provisions of
31 Title 6 of this article, the District Court has exclusive original civil jurisdiction in:~~

~~32 (13) A proceeding for a civil infraction under § 21-202.1, § 21-704.1, §
33 21-706.1, § 21-707.1, § 21-707.2, § 21-809, § 21-810, § 21-1134, § 22-612, or § 24-111.3
34 of the Transportation Article or § 10-112 of the Criminal Law Article;~~

1 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

2 7–302.

3 (e) (4) (i) Except as provided in paragraph (5) of this subsection, from the
4 fin es collected by a political subdivision as a result of violations enforced by speed
5 monitoring systems, work zone speed control systems, stop sign monitoring systems, school
6 bus monitoring cameras, bus lane monitoring systems, or noise abatement monitoring
7 systems, a political subdivision:

8 1. May recover the costs of implementing and administering
9 the speed monitoring systems, work zone speed control systems, STOP SIGN MONITORING
10 SYSTEMS, school bus monitoring cameras, bus lane monitoring systems, or noise
11 abatement monitoring systems; and

12 2. Subject to subparagraphs (ii), (iii), and (iv) of this
13 paragraph, may spend any remaining balance solely for public safety purposes, including
14 pedestrian or highway safety programs.

15 **Article – Transportation**

16 21–707.

17 (a) Unless otherwise directed by a police officer or traffic control signal, the driver
18 of a vehicle approaching a stop sign at an intersection shall stop at the near side of the
19 intersection at a clearly marked stop line.

20 (b) Unless otherwise directed by a police officer or traffic control signal, the driver
21 of a vehicle approaching a stop sign at an intersection shall stop at the near side of the
22 intersection and, if there is no clearly marked stop line, before entering any crosswalk.

23 (c) Unless otherwise directed by a police officer or traffic control signal, the driver
24 of a vehicle approaching a stop sign at an intersection shall stop at the near side of an
25 intersection and, if there is no crosswalk, at the nearest point before entering the
26 intersection that gives the driver a view of traffic approaching on the intersecting roadway.

27 (d) The driver of a vehicle approaching a yield sign at an intersection, if required
28 for safety to stop, shall stop at the near side of the intersection at a clearly marked stop
29 line.

30 (e) The driver of a vehicle approaching a yield sign at an intersection, if required
31 for safety to stop, shall stop at the near side of the intersection and, if there is no clearly
32 marked stop line, before entering any crosswalk.

33 (f) The driver of a vehicle approaching a yield sign at an intersection, if required
34 for safety to stop, shall stop at the near side of the intersection and, if there is no crosswalk,

1 at the nearest point before entering the intersection that gives the driver a view of traffic
2 approaching on the intersecting roadway.

3 ~~21-707.2.~~

4 (A) ~~THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY IN BALTIMORE CITY.~~

5 (B) (1) ~~IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS~~
6 ~~INDICATED.~~

7 (2) ~~“AGENCY” MEANS A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY THAT IS~~
8 ~~AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE A CITATION FOR A VIOLATION OF THE MARYLAND VEHICLE~~
9 ~~LAW OR OF LOCAL TRAFFIC LAWS OR REGULATIONS.~~

10 (3) (i) ~~“OWNER” MEANS THE REGISTERED OWNER OF A MOTOR~~
11 ~~VEHICLE OR LESSEE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE UNDER A LEASE OF 6 MONTHS OR MORE.~~

12 (ii) ~~“OWNER” DOES NOT INCLUDE:~~

13 1. ~~A MOTOR VEHICLE LEASING COMPANY; OR~~

14 2. ~~A HOLDER OF A SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATE~~
15 ~~ISSUED UNDER TITLE 13, SUBTITLE 9, PART III OF THIS ARTICLE.~~

16 (4) ~~“RECORDED IMAGE” MEANS IMAGES RECORDED BY A STOP SIGN~~
17 ~~MONITORING SYSTEM.~~

18 (i) ~~ON:~~

19 1. ~~TWO OR MORE PHOTOGRAPHS;~~

20 2. ~~TWO OR MORE MICROPHOTOGRAPHS;~~

21 3. ~~TWO OR MORE ELECTRONIC IMAGES;~~

22 4. ~~VIDEOTAPE; OR~~

23 5. ~~ANY OTHER MEDIUM; AND~~

24 (ii) ~~SHOWING A MOTOR VEHICLE AND, ON AT LEAST ONE IMAGE~~
25 ~~OR PORTION OF TAPE, CLEARLY IDENTIFYING THE REGISTRATION PLATE NUMBER~~
26 ~~OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE.~~

27 (5) ~~“STOP SIGN MONITORING SYSTEM” MEANS A DEVICE DESIGNED~~
28 ~~TO CAPTURE A RECORDED IMAGE OF A VIOLATION.~~

1 ~~(6) (i) "VIOLATION" MEANS A FAILURE TO COME TO A COMPLETE~~
2 ~~STOP AT A STOP SIGN IN VIOLATION OF § 21-707 OF THIS SUBTITLE.~~

3 ~~(H) "VIOLATION" DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY ACTION A DRIVER IS~~
4 ~~INSTRUCTED TO TAKE BY A POLICE OFFICER.~~

5 ~~(c) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPHS (2) THROUGH (4) OF THIS~~
6 ~~SUBSECTION, AN AGENCY MAY USE STOP SIGN MONITORING SYSTEMS:~~

7 ~~(i) ON HIGHWAYS LOCATED IN A SCHOOL ZONE MAINTAINED BY~~
8 ~~BALTIMORE CITY, IF AUTHORIZED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE CITY; OR~~

9 ~~(H) ON STATE HIGHWAYS LOCATED IN A SCHOOL ZONE, IF~~
10 ~~AUTHORIZED BY THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION.~~

11 ~~(2) A STOP SIGN MONITORING SYSTEM MAY NOT BE USED UNDER THIS~~
12 ~~SECTION UNLESS ITS USE IS AUTHORIZED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE~~
13 ~~CITY BY LOCAL LAW ENACTED AFTER REASONABLE NOTICE AND A PUBLIC HEARING.~~

14 ~~(3) BEFORE BEGINNING USE OF STOP SIGN MONITORING SYSTEMS,~~
15 ~~AN AGENCY SHALL PUBLISH NOTICE THAT THE AGENCY HAS ADOPTED THE USE OF~~
16 ~~STOP SIGN MONITORING SYSTEMS ON ITS WEBSITE AND IN A NEWSPAPER OF~~
17 ~~GENERAL CIRCULATION IN BALTIMORE CITY.~~

18 ~~(4) (i) THE CITY SHALL PROMINENTLY PLACE SIGNS ON~~
19 ~~HIGHWAYS WITHIN THE CITY PROVIDING NOTICE THAT STOP SIGN MONITORING~~
20 ~~SYSTEMS ARE USED IN THE CITY.~~

21 ~~(H) THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION SHALL PLACE~~
22 ~~SIGNS PROMINENTLY PROVIDING NOTICE THAT STOP SIGN MONITORING SYSTEMS~~
23 ~~ARE IN USE ON STATE HIGHWAYS.~~

24 ~~(D) A RECORDED IMAGE UNDER THIS SECTION INDICATING THAT THE~~
25 ~~DRIVER OF A MOTOR VEHICLE HAS COMMITTED A VIOLATION SHALL INCLUDE:~~

26 ~~(1) THE TIME AND DATE OF THE VIOLATION; AND~~

27 ~~(2) TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, THE LOCATION OF THE VIOLATION.~~

28 ~~(E) (1) UNLESS THE DRIVER OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE RECEIVED A~~
29 ~~CITATION FROM A POLICE OFFICER AT THE TIME OF THE VIOLATION, THE OWNER~~
30 ~~OR, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (F)(3) OR (H)(4) OR (5) OF THIS SECTION,~~
31 ~~THE DRIVER OF A MOTOR VEHICLE IS SUBJECT TO A CIVIL PENALTY IF THE MOTOR~~

~~1 VEHICLE IS RECORDED BY A STOP SIGN MONITORING SYSTEM DURING THE
2 COMMISSION OF A VIOLATION.~~

~~3 (2) A CIVIL PENALTY UNDER THIS SUBSECTION MAY NOT EXCEED \$40.~~

~~4 (3) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, THE DISTRICT COURT SHALL
5 PRESCRIBE:~~

~~6 (I) A UNIFORM CITATION FORM CONSISTENT WITH
7 SUBSECTION (F)(1) OF THIS SECTION AND § 7-302 OF THE COURTS ARTICLE; AND~~

~~8 (H) A CIVIL PENALTY, WHICH SHALL BE INDICATED ON THE
9 CITATION, TO BE PAID BY PERSONS WHO CHOOSE TO PREPAY THE CIVIL PENALTY
10 WITHOUT APPEARING IN DISTRICT COURT.~~

~~11 (F) (1) SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF PARAGRAPHS (2) THROUGH (5)
12 OF THIS SUBSECTION, AN AGENCY SHALL MAIL TO THE OWNER LIABLE UNDER
13 SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION A CITATION THAT SHALL INCLUDE:~~

~~14 (I) THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE REGISTERED OWNER OF
15 THE MOTOR VEHICLE;~~

~~16 (H) THE REGISTRATION NUMBER OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE
17 INVOLVED IN THE VIOLATION;~~

~~18 (HH) THE VIOLATION CHARGED;~~

~~19 (IV) TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, THE LOCATION OF THE
20 VIOLATION;~~

~~21 (V) THE DATE AND TIME OF THE VIOLATION;~~

~~22 (VI) A COPY OF THE RECORDED IMAGE;~~

~~23 (VII) THE AMOUNT OF THE CIVIL PENALTY IMPOSED AND THE
24 DATE BY WHICH THE CIVIL PENALTY MUST BE PAID;~~

~~25 (VIII) A SIGNED STATEMENT BY A TECHNICIAN EMPLOYED BY THE
26 AGENCY THAT, BASED ON THE INSPECTION OF THE RECORDED IMAGE, THE MOTOR
27 VEHICLE WAS BEING OPERATED DURING THE COMMISSION OF A VIOLATION;~~

~~28 (IX) A STATEMENT THAT THE RECORDED IMAGE IS EVIDENCE OF
29 A VIOLATION; AND~~

1 ~~(X) INFORMATION ADVISING THE PERSON ALLEGED TO BE~~
2 ~~LIABLE UNDER THIS SECTION;~~

3 ~~1. OF THE MANNER AND TIME IN WHICH LIABILITY AS~~
4 ~~ALLEGED IN THE CITATION MAY BE CONTESTED IN THE DISTRICT COURT; AND~~

5 ~~2. THAT FAILURE TO PAY THE CIVIL PENALTY OR TO~~
6 ~~CONTEST LIABILITY IN A TIMELY MANNER IS AN ADMISSION OF LIABILITY AND MAY~~
7 ~~RESULT IN REFUSAL OR SUSPENSION OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION.~~

8 ~~(2) THE AGENCY MAY MAIL A WARNING NOTICE IN PLACE OF A~~
9 ~~CITATION TO THE OWNER LIABLE UNDER SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION.~~

10 ~~(3) (I) BEFORE MAILING A CITATION TO A MOTOR VEHICLE~~
11 ~~RENTAL COMPANY LIABLE UNDER SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION, AN AGENCY~~
12 ~~SHALL MAIL A NOTICE TO THE MOTOR VEHICLE RENTAL COMPANY STATING THAT A~~
13 ~~CITATION WILL BE MAILED TO THE MOTOR VEHICLE RENTAL COMPANY UNLESS,~~
14 ~~WITHIN 15 DAYS AFTER RECEIVING THE NOTICE, THE MOTOR VEHICLE RENTAL~~
15 ~~COMPANY PROVIDES THE AGENCY WITH:~~

16 ~~1. A STATEMENT MADE UNDER OATH THAT STATES THE~~
17 ~~NAME AND LAST KNOWN MAILING ADDRESS OF THE INDIVIDUAL DRIVING OR~~
18 ~~RENTING THE MOTOR VEHICLE WHEN THE VIOLATION OCCURRED;~~

19 ~~2. A. A STATEMENT MADE UNDER OATH THAT~~
20 ~~STATES THAT THE MOTOR VEHICLE RENTAL COMPANY IS UNABLE TO DETERMINE~~
21 ~~WHO WAS DRIVING THE MOTOR VEHICLE AT THE TIME THE VIOLATION OCCURRED~~
22 ~~BECAUSE THE MOTOR VEHICLE WAS STOLEN AT THE TIME OF THE VIOLATION; AND~~

23 ~~B. A COPY OF THE POLICE REPORT ASSOCIATED WITH~~
24 ~~THE MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT CLAIMED UNDER ITEM A OF THIS ITEM; OR~~

25 ~~3. PAYMENT FOR THE PENALTY ASSOCIATED WITH THE~~
26 ~~VIOLATION.~~

27 ~~(II) AN AGENCY MAY NOT MAIL A CITATION TO A MOTOR~~
28 ~~VEHICLE RENTAL COMPANY LIABLE UNDER SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION IF~~
29 ~~THE MOTOR VEHICLE RENTAL COMPANY COMPLIES WITH SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF~~
30 ~~THIS PARAGRAPH.~~

31 ~~(4) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION~~
32 ~~AND SUBSECTION (I)(4) AND (5) OF THIS SECTION, A CITATION ISSUED UNDER THIS~~
33 ~~SECTION SHALL BE MAILED NOT LATER THAN 2 WEEKS AFTER THE ALLEGED~~
34 ~~VIOLATION.~~

1 ~~(5) A PERSON WHO RECEIVES A CITATION UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF~~
2 ~~THIS SUBSECTION MAY:~~

3 ~~(I) PAY THE CIVIL PENALTY IN ACCORDANCE WITH~~
4 ~~INSTRUCTIONS ON THE CITATION; OR~~

5 ~~(II) ELECT TO STAND TRIAL FOR THE ALLEGED VIOLATION.~~

6 ~~(C) (1) A CERTIFICATE ALLEGING THAT A VIOLATION OCCURRED, SWORN~~
7 ~~TO OR AFFIRMED BY A DULY AUTHORIZED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER EMPLOYED~~
8 ~~BY OR UNDER CONTRACT WITH AN AGENCY, BASED ON THE INSPECTION OF A~~
9 ~~RECORDED IMAGE, SHALL BE EVIDENCE OF THE FACTS CONTAINED IN THE~~
10 ~~CERTIFICATE AND SHALL BE ADMISSIBLE IN ANY PROCEEDING CONCERNING THE~~
11 ~~ALLEGED VIOLATION.~~

12 ~~(2) ADJUDICATION OF LIABILITY SHALL BE BASED ON~~
13 ~~PREPONDERANCE OF THE EVIDENCE.~~

14 ~~(H) (1) THE DISTRICT COURT MAY CONSIDER IN DEFENSE OF A~~
15 ~~VIOLATION:~~

16 ~~(I) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THAT~~
17 ~~THE MOTOR VEHICLE OR REGISTRATION PLATES OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE WERE~~
18 ~~STOLEN BEFORE THE VIOLATION OCCURRED AND WERE NOT UNDER THE CONTROL~~
19 ~~OR POSSESSION OF THE OWNER AT THE TIME OF THE VIOLATION;~~

20 ~~(II) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION,~~
21 ~~EVIDENCE THAT THE PERSON NAMED IN THE CITATION WAS NOT OPERATING THE~~
22 ~~MOTOR VEHICLE AT THE TIME OF THE VIOLATION; AND~~

23 ~~(III) ANY OTHER ISSUES AND EVIDENCE THAT THE DISTRICT~~
24 ~~COURT CONSIDERS PERTINENT.~~

25 ~~(2) TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE MOTOR VEHICLE OR THE~~
26 ~~REGISTRATION PLATES WERE STOLEN BEFORE THE VIOLATION OCCURRED AND~~
27 ~~WERE NOT UNDER THE CONTROL OR POSSESSION OF THE OWNER AT THE TIME OF~~
28 ~~THE VIOLATION, THE OWNER MUST SUBMIT PROOF THAT A POLICE REPORT ABOUT~~
29 ~~THE STOLEN MOTOR VEHICLE OR REGISTRATION PLATES WAS FILED IN A TIMELY~~
30 ~~MANNER.~~

31 ~~(3) TO SATISFY THE EVIDENTIARY BURDEN UNDER PARAGRAPH~~
32 ~~(1)(II) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE PERSON NAMED IN THE CITATION SHALL PROVIDE~~
33 ~~TO THE DISTRICT COURT EVIDENCE TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE DISTRICT~~

~~COURT OF WHO WAS OPERATING THE MOTOR VEHICLE AT THE TIME OF THE VIOLATION, INCLUDING, AT A MINIMUM, THE OPERATOR'S NAME AND CURRENT ADDRESS.~~

~~(4) (i) THE PROVISIONS OF THIS PARAGRAPH APPLY ONLY TO A CITATION THAT INVOLVES A CLASS E (TRUCK) VEHICLE WITH A REGISTERED GROSS WEIGHT OF 26,001 POUNDS OR MORE, CLASS F (TRACTOR) VEHICLE, CLASS G (TRAILER) VEHICLE OPERATED IN COMBINATION WITH A CLASS F (TRACTOR) VEHICLE, OR CLASS P (PASSENGER BUS) VEHICLE.~~

~~(H) TO SATISFY THE EVIDENTIARY BURDEN UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)(H) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE PERSON NAMED IN A CITATION DESCRIBED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH MAY PROVIDE TO THE DISTRICT COURT A LETTER, SWORN TO OR AFFIRMED BY THE PERSON AND MAILED BY CERTIFIED MAIL, RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED, THAT:~~

~~1. STATES THAT THE PERSON NAMED IN THE CITATION WAS NOT OPERATING THE MOTOR VEHICLE AT THE TIME OF THE VIOLATION; AND~~

~~2. PROVIDES THE NAME, ADDRESS, AND DRIVER'S LICENSE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER OF THE PERSON WHO WAS OPERATING THE MOTOR VEHICLE AT THE TIME OF THE VIOLATION.~~

~~(5) (i) IF THE DISTRICT COURT FINDS THAT THE PERSON NAMED IN THE CITATION WAS NOT OPERATING THE MOTOR VEHICLE AT THE TIME OF THE VIOLATION OR RECEIVES EVIDENCE UNDER PARAGRAPH (4)(H)2 OF THIS SUBSECTION IDENTIFYING THE PERSON DRIVING THE MOTOR VEHICLE AT THE TIME OF THE VIOLATION, THE CLERK OF COURT SHALL PROVIDE TO THE AGENCY ISSUING THE CITATION A COPY OF ANY EVIDENCE SUBSTANTIATING WHO WAS OPERATING THE MOTOR VEHICLE AT THE TIME OF THE VIOLATION.~~

~~(H) ON RECEIPT OF SUBSTANTIATING EVIDENCE FROM THE DISTRICT COURT UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE AGENCY MAY ISSUE A CITATION AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (F) OF THIS SECTION TO THE PERSON WHO THE EVIDENCE INDICATES WAS OPERATING THE MOTOR VEHICLE AT THE TIME OF THE VIOLATION.~~

~~(H) A CITATION ISSUED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (H) OF THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL BE MAILED NOT LATER THAN 2 WEEKS AFTER RECEIPT OF THE EVIDENCE FROM THE DISTRICT COURT.~~

~~(i) IF THE CIVIL PENALTY IS NOT PAID AND THE VIOLATION IS NOT CONTESTED, THE ADMINISTRATION MAY REFUSE TO REGISTER OR REREGISTER OR MAY SUSPEND THE REGISTRATION OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE.~~

1 ~~(J) A VIOLATION FOR WHICH A CIVIL PENALTY IS IMPOSED UNDER THIS~~
 2 ~~SECTION:~~

3 ~~(1) IS NOT A MOVING VIOLATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASSESSING~~
 4 ~~POINTS UNDER § 16-402 OF THIS ARTICLE AND MAY NOT BE RECORDED BY THE~~
 5 ~~ADMINISTRATION ON THE DRIVING RECORD OF THE OWNER OR DRIVER OF THE~~
 6 ~~MOTOR VEHICLE; AND~~

7 ~~(2) MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED IN THE PROVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLE~~
 8 ~~INSURANCE COVERAGE.~~

9 ~~(K) IN CONSULTATION WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, THE CHIEF~~
 10 ~~JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT SHALL ADOPT PROCEDURES FOR THE ISSUANCE~~
 11 ~~OF CITATIONS, TRIALS FOR VIOLATIONS, AND THE COLLECTION OF CIVIL PENALTIES~~
 12 ~~IMPOSED UNDER THIS SECTION.~~

13 ~~(L) (1) AN AGENCY OR AN AGENT OR A CONTRACTOR DESIGNATED BY THE~~
 14 ~~AGENCY SHALL ADMINISTER AND PROCESS CIVIL CITATIONS ISSUED UNDER THIS~~
 15 ~~SECTION IN COORDINATION WITH THE DISTRICT COURT.~~

16 ~~(2) IF A CONTRACTOR IN ANY MANNER OPERATES A STOP SIGN~~
 17 ~~MONITORING SYSTEM OR ADMINISTERS OR PROCESSES CITATIONS GENERATED BY~~
 18 ~~A STOP SIGN MONITORING SYSTEM ON BEHALF OF BALTIMORE CITY, THE~~
 19 ~~CONTRACTOR'S FEE MAY NOT BE CONTINGENT ON A PER TICKET BASIS ON THE~~
 20 ~~NUMBER OF CITATIONS ISSUED OR PAID.~~

21 21-707.1.

22 (a) This section applies only in Prince George's County, THE 45TH AND 46TH
 23 LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS IN BALTIMORE CITY, AND THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK.

24 (b) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

25 (2) "Agency" means a law enforcement agency that is authorized to issue a
 26 citation for a violation of the Maryland Vehicle Law or of local traffic laws or regulations.

27 (3) (i) "Owner" means the registered owner of a motor vehicle or lessee
 28 of a motor vehicle under a lease of 6 months or more.

29 (ii) "Owner" does not include:

30 1. A motor vehicle leasing company; or

1 (3) [The county] PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY shall prioritize the
2 placement of stop sign monitoring systems within municipalities that have high violation
3 rates.

4 (4) Before beginning use of stop sign monitoring systems, an agency shall
5 publish notice that the agency has adopted the use of stop sign monitoring systems on its
6 website and, IN BALTIMORE CITY AND PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY ONLY, in a
7 newspaper of general circulation in the jurisdiction in which the stop sign monitoring
8 system will be used.

9 (5) (i) [The county] A LOCAL JURISDICTION THAT IMPLEMENTS A
10 STOP SIGN MONITORING SYSTEM shall prominently place signs on highways within the
11 [county] LOCAL JURISDICTION providing notice that stop sign monitoring systems are
12 used in the [county] LOCAL JURISDICTION.

13 (ii) The State Highway Administration shall place signs prominently
14 providing notice that stop sign monitoring systems are in use on State highways.

15 (d) A recorded image under this section indicating that the driver of a motor
16 vehicle has committed a violation shall include:

17 (1) The time and date of the violation; and

18 (2) To the extent possible, the location of the violation.

19 (e) (1) Unless the driver of the motor vehicle received a citation from a police
20 officer at the time of the violation, the owner or, in accordance with subsection (f)(3) or (h)(4)
21 or (5) of this section, the driver of a motor vehicle is subject to a civil penalty if the motor
22 vehicle is recorded by a stop sign monitoring system during the commission of a violation.

23 (2) A civil penalty under this subsection may not exceed \$40.

24 (3) For purposes of this section, the District Court shall prescribe:

25 (i) A uniform citation form consistent with subsection (f)(1) of this
26 section and § 7-302 of the Courts Article; and

27 (ii) A civil penalty, which shall be indicated on the citation, to be paid
28 by persons who choose to prepay the civil penalty without appearing in District Court.

29 (f) (1) Subject to the provisions of paragraphs (2) through (5) of this
30 subsection, an agency shall mail to the owner liable under subsection (e) of this section a
31 citation that shall include:

32 (i) The name and address of the registered owner of the vehicle;

- 1 (ii) The registration PLATE number of the motor vehicle involved in
2 the violation;
- 3 (iii) The violation charged;
- 4 (iv) To the extent possible, the location of the violation;
- 5 (v) The date and time of the violation;
- 6 (vi) A copy of the recorded image;
- 7 (vii) The amount of the civil penalty imposed and the date by which
8 the civil penalty must be paid;
- 9 (viii) A signed statement by a technician employed by the agency that,
10 based on the inspection of the recorded image, the motor vehicle was being operated during
11 the commission of a violation;
- 12 (ix) A statement that the recorded image is evidence of a violation;
13 and
- 14 (x) Information advising the person alleged to be liable under this
15 section:
- 16 1. Of the manner and time in which liability as alleged in the
17 citation may be contested in the District Court; and
- 18 2. That failure to pay the civil penalty or to contest liability
19 in a timely manner is an admission of liability and may result in refusal or suspension of
20 the motor vehicle registration.
- 21 (2) The agency may mail a warning notice in place of a citation to the owner
22 liable under subsection (e) of this section.
- 23 (3) (i) Before mailing a citation to a motor vehicle rental company liable
24 under subsection (e) of this section, an agency shall mail a notice to the motor vehicle rental
25 company stating that a citation will be mailed to the motor vehicle rental company unless,
26 within 45 days after receiving the notice, the motor vehicle rental company provides the
27 agency with:
- 28 1. A statement made under oath that states the name and
29 last known mailing address of the individual driving or renting the motor vehicle when the
30 violation occurred;
- 31 2. A. A statement made under oath that states that the
32 motor vehicle rental company is unable to determine who was driving the vehicle at the

1 time the violation occurred because the motor vehicle was stolen at the time of the violation;
2 and

3 B. A copy of the police report associated with the motor
4 vehicle theft claimed under item A of this item; or

5 3. Payment for the penalty associated with the violation.

6 (ii) An agency may not mail a citation to a motor vehicle rental
7 company liable under subsection (e) of this section if the motor vehicle rental company
8 complies with subparagraph (i) of this paragraph.

9 (4) Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection and subsection
10 (h)(4) and (5) of this section, a citation issued under this section shall be mailed not later
11 than 2 weeks after the alleged violation.

12 (5) A person who receives a citation under paragraph (1) of this subsection
13 may:

14 (i) Pay the civil penalty in accordance with instructions on the
15 citation; or

16 (ii) Elect to stand trial for the alleged violation.

17 (g) (1) A certificate alleging that a violation occurred, sworn to or affirmed by
18 a duly authorized law enforcement officer employed by or under contract with an agency,
19 based on the inspection of a recorded image, shall be evidence of the facts contained in the
20 certificate and shall be admissible in any proceeding concerning the alleged violation.

21 (2) Adjudication of liability shall be based on preponderance of the
22 evidence.

23 (h) (1) The District Court may consider in defense of a violation:

24 (i) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, that the motor vehicle
25 or registration plates of the motor vehicle were stolen before the violation occurred and
26 were not under the control or possession of the owner at the time of the violation;

27 (ii) Subject to paragraph (3) of this subsection, evidence that the
28 person named in the citation was not operating the vehicle at the time of the violation; and

29 (iii) Any other issues and evidence that the District Court considers
30 pertinent.

31 (2) To demonstrate that the motor vehicle or the registration plates were
32 stolen before the violation occurred and were not under the control or possession of the

1 owner at the time of the violation, the owner must submit proof that a police report about
2 the stolen motor vehicle or registration plates was filed in a timely manner.

3 (3) To satisfy the evidentiary burden under paragraph (1)(ii) of this
4 subsection, the person named in the citation shall provide to the District Court evidence to
5 the satisfaction of the District Court of who was operating the vehicle at the time of the
6 violation, including, at a minimum, the operator's name and current address.

7 (4) (i) The provisions of this paragraph apply only to a citation that
8 involves a Class E (truck) vehicle with a registered gross weight of 26,001 pounds or more,
9 Class F (tractor) vehicle, Class G (trailer) vehicle operated in combination with a Class F
10 (tractor) vehicle, or Class P (passenger bus) vehicle.

11 (ii) To satisfy the evidentiary burden under paragraph (1)(ii) of this
12 subsection, the person named in a citation described under subparagraph (i) of this
13 paragraph may provide to the District Court a letter, sworn to or affirmed by the person
14 and mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested, that:

15 1. States that the person named in the citation was not
16 operating the vehicle at the time of the violation; and

17 2. Provides the name, address, and driver's license
18 identification number of the person who was operating the vehicle at the time of the
19 violation.

20 (5) (i) If the District Court finds that the person named in the citation
21 was not operating the vehicle at the time of the violation or receives evidence under
22 paragraph (4)(ii)2 of this subsection identifying the person driving the vehicle at the time
23 of the violation, the clerk of court shall provide to the agency issuing the citation a copy of
24 any evidence substantiating who was operating the vehicle at the time of the violation.

25 (ii) On receipt of substantiating evidence from the District Court
26 under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph, the agency may issue a citation as provided in
27 subsection (f) of this section to the person who the evidence indicates was operating the
28 vehicle at the time of the violation.

29 (iii) A citation issued under subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph shall
30 be mailed not later than 2 weeks after receipt of the evidence from the District Court.

31 (i) If the civil penalty is not paid and the violation is not contested, the
32 Administration may refuse to register or reregister or may suspend the registration of the
33 motor vehicle.

34 (j) A violation for which a civil penalty is imposed under this section:

1 (1) Is not a moving violation for the purpose of assessing points under §
 2 16-402 of this article and may not be recorded by the Administration on the driving record
 3 of the owner or driver of the vehicle; and

4 (2) May not be considered in the provision of motor vehicle insurance
 5 coverage.

6 (k) In consultation with law enforcement agencies, the Chief Judge of the District
 7 Court shall adopt procedures for the issuance of citations, trials for violations, and the
 8 collection of civil penalties imposed under this section.

9 (1) (1) An agency or an agent or a contractor designated by the agency shall
 10 administer and process civil citations issued under this section in coordination with the
 11 District Court.

12 (2) If a contractor in any manner operates a stop sign monitoring system
 13 or administers or processes citations generated by a STOP SIGN monitoring system on
 14 behalf of a local jurisdiction, the contractor's fee may not be contingent on a per-ticket basis
 15 on the number of citations issued or paid.

16 SECTION ~~4~~ 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before December 1,
 17 ~~2026~~ 2027, the Baltimore City Department of Transportation ~~shall~~ and the City of Takoma
 18 Park, respectively, shall each report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of
 19 the State Government Article, the General Assembly on:

20 (1) through October 1, ~~2026~~ 2027:

21 (i) the time period during which stop sign monitoring systems were
 22 in use in the ~~City~~ local jurisdiction; and

23 (ii) the number of warnings and citations issued as a result of
 24 violations recorded by a stop sign monitoring system in the ~~City~~ local jurisdiction over the
 25 reported time period, by location and date;

26 (2) (i) the costs associated with implementing and operating stop sign
 27 monitoring systems; and

28 (ii) the revenue collected on a monthly basis as a result of violations
 29 recorded by stop sign monitoring systems;

30 (3) appropriate locations for the deployment of stop sign monitoring
 31 systems;

32 (4) the performance and reliability of stop sign monitoring systems used by
 33 the ~~City~~ local jurisdiction; and

1 (5) the effectiveness of stop sign monitoring systems in reducing violations,
2 crashes, and pedestrian injuries in the City local jurisdiction and in areas where the stop
3 sign monitoring systems were implemented and used.

4 ~~SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall take~~
5 ~~effect on the taking effect of the termination provision specified in Section 3 of Chapter 678~~
6 ~~of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2024. If that termination provision takes effect,~~
7 ~~Section 1 of this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be~~
8 ~~abrogated and of no further force and effect. This Act may not be interpreted to have any~~
9 ~~effect on that termination provision.~~

10 SECTION ~~6.~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, ~~subject to the provisions~~
11 ~~of Section 5 of this Act,~~ this Act shall take effect July 1, 2025. It shall remain effective for
12 a period of ~~5~~ 4 years and, at the end of June 30, ~~2030~~ 2029, this Act, with no further action
13 required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.