

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

Senate Bill 808 (Senator Augustine)  
Judicial Proceedings

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Prince George's County - Stop Sign Monitoring Systems - School Bus Stops

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This bill modifies the provisions of Chapter 678 of 2024 that authorize the use of stop sign monitoring systems on State and local highways located in a *school zone* in Prince George’s County to also authorize the use of stop sign monitoring systems at *school bus stops* on State and local highways in the county, if authorized by the State Highway Administration (SHA) or the governing body of the local jurisdiction, respectively. Existing requirements and penalties that apply for stop sign monitoring systems authorized by Chapter 678 also apply to any new systems placed under the bill’s authority. Because Chapter 678 terminates June 30, 2029, the bill’s authority also terminates June 30, 2029.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Because the bill is authorizing in nature, the impact on State finances generally depends on the extent to which any additional systems are deployed in Prince George’s County, as discussed below. Nevertheless, the District Court must be prepared should any additional systems be deployed, with programming costs totaling \$10,900 in FY 2026 only.

**Local Effect:** The bill is authorizing in nature. The impact on local government finances depends on the extent to which additional systems are deployed in Prince George’s County, as discussed below.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## Analysis

### Current Law:

#### *Required Stops When Approaching a Stop Sign*

Unless otherwise directed by a police officer or traffic control signal, the driver of a vehicle approaching a stop sign at an intersection must:

- stop at the near side of the intersection at a clearly marked stop line;
- stop at the near side of the intersection and, if there is no clearly marked stop line, before entering any crosswalk; and
- stop at the near side of an intersection and, if there is no crosswalk, at the nearest point before entering the intersection that gives the driver a view of traffic approaching on the intersecting roadway.

A violation of any of these requirements is a misdemeanor with a maximum \$500 fine. The prepayment penalty is \$90 with one point assessed against the license. If the violation contributes to an accident, the prepayment penalty is \$130 and three points must be assessed against the license.

#### *Stop Sign Monitoring Systems – Prince George’s County*

Chapter 678 authorizes, from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2029, the use of stop sign monitoring systems on State and local highways located in a school zone in Prince George’s County to record violations of State law requiring obedience to stop signs. Unless the driver of the motor vehicle receives a citation from a police officer at the time, the owner or driver of a motor vehicle is subject to a civil penalty of up to \$40 if the motor vehicle is recorded by a stop sign monitoring system during commission of the violation. Similar to most other automated enforcement systems in use in the State, Chapter 678 requires:

- for an uncontested case, citation penalty revenues from a stop sign monitoring system controlled by a political subdivision to be paid directly to the political subdivision; and
- for a case contested in District Court, citation penalty revenues to be collected by the District Court and distributed in accordance with existing statutory provisions (generally these revenues accrue to the general fund).

A political subdivision is not explicitly authorized to recover the costs of implementing and administering stop sign monitoring systems from fines collected by the political subdivision as a result of violations enforced by stop sign monitoring systems.

Nevertheless, a political subdivision may spend the “remaining balance” solely for public safety purposes, including pedestrian safety programs, as specified under other statutory provisions.

Chapter 678 includes additional requirements and specifications related to the use of stop sign monitoring systems in Prince George’s County. Notably, and among other provisions related to the use of stop sign monitoring systems in the county, the Act:

- specifies the admissibility of images recorded by a system as evidence in a judicial proceeding;
- requires a recorded image to include specified information;
- requires the county to prioritize the placement of systems within municipalities that have high violation rates;
- requires an agency to publish a specified public notice before beginning the use of any systems;
- requires Prince George’s County to prominently place signs on highways in the county providing notice that the systems are in use in the county;
- establishes a process that an agency must follow when issuing a citation and specifies the information that must be included on the citation;
- specifies the circumstances that the District Court may consider in defense of a violation;
- authorizes the Motor Vehicle Administration to refuse to register or reregister or suspend the registration of a motor vehicle when a citation is not paid and the violation is not contested, as specified;
- includes additional requirements for agencies, contractors, and the District Court related to the administration of the stop sign monitoring system program; and
- requires the Prince George’s County Department of Public Works and Transportation to report, by December 1, 2025, to the Governor and General Assembly on specified issues related to the stop sign monitoring system program.

**State Revenues:** To the extent the District Court collects fines for contested citations issued under the bill, general fund revenues increase from fiscal 2026 through 2029. Any such impact depends on the extent to which additional stop sign monitoring systems are deployed in Prince George’s County and the amount of the fine established for a violation (up to \$40).

**State Expenditures:** As noted above, the bill authorizes the use of stop sign monitoring systems at school bus stops by certain law enforcement agencies in Prince George’s County. The impact on State expenditures depends on the extent to which additional stop sign monitoring system programs are implemented in the county.

To the extent that additional stop sign monitoring systems are used on State highways in Prince George's County, Transportation Trust Fund expenditures increase for SHA to install required signage and for potential planning costs. Any costs are assumed to terminate after fiscal 2029.

In addition, in anticipation of any stop sign monitoring systems being deployed by State and/or local agencies at school bus stops in Prince George's County, general fund expenditures for the District Court increase for programming changes necessary to collect payments for citations that may be issued under the bill. Programming-related costs total approximately \$10,920.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** To the extent that stop sign monitoring systems are deployed at school bus stops in Prince George's County, local expenditures increase from fiscal 2026 through 2029 as a result of start-up costs, ongoing implementation costs, and for public safety purposes. Local revenues also increase over the same time period to the extent that penalties are collected from citations issued as a result of locally controlled stop sign monitoring systems.

Because neither Chapter 678 nor the bill allows for cost recovery, revenues are assumed to be expended exclusively for public safety purposes. Prince George's County did not advise of any current plans to implement a stop sign monitoring system program but noted that the county will not implement the systems if doing so is anticipated to result in a deficit.

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### Additional Information

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

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Department of State Police; Maryland Department of Transportation; Comptroller's Office; Prince George's County; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 4, 2025  
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