

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 339
Finance

(Senator Watson)

**Maryland Transportation Authority - Video Toll Facilities - Study on Image
Capture of License Plates**

This bill requires the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) to conduct a study on the feasibility of capturing the image of only the rear license plate of a vehicle, rather than images of both the front and rear license plates, at video toll facilities in the State. MDTA must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 2025. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Although a precise estimate of the cost to complete the feasibility study cannot be made at this time, MDTA can likely absorb any increase in costs using existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The study must identify (1) any system and equipment upgrades necessary to reliably capture the image of the rear license plate of a vehicle at a video toll facility and (2) any potential impacts that may occur as the result of capturing the image of only the rear license plate of a vehicle rather than both the front and rear license plates.

Current Law: Since 1971, MDTA has been responsible for constructing, managing, operating, and improving the State's toll facilities (for example, the Chesapeake Bay

Bridge and the Governor Harry W. Nice Memorial/Senator Thomas “Mac” Middleton Bridge) and for financing new revenue-producing transportation projects. MDTA is a nonbudgeted State agency, meaning that its budget is not subject to the General Assembly’s appropriation process.

Additional Comments: All of MDTA’s toll facilities operate through all-electronic cashless tolling, which requires drivers using the toll facilities to either (1) pay the toll immediately using an E-ZPass transponder or (2) receive a notice of toll due through MDTA’s video tolling system and pay the toll at a later date. [Video tolling](#) is a form of electronic toll collection that uses still images of a vehicle’s license plate to identify a vehicle liable to pay a toll. The image is captured as the vehicle drives under the gantry or through a toll plaza at a toll-collection facility, and the vehicle owner is sent a notice of toll due to notify them of the payment owed to MDTA.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: HB 692 (Delegate Harris, *et al.*) - Environment and Transportation.

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

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km/lgc

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