

HOUSE BILL 601

R5, L2

6lr0854

By: **Montgomery County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2026

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Montgomery County – Stop Sign Monitoring Systems Pilot Program –**
3 **Gaithersburg and Rockville**

4 **MC 5-26**

5 FOR the purpose of authorizing the use of stop sign monitoring systems in school zones in
6 the City of Gaithersburg and the City of Rockville under the pilot program
7 authorized for Prince George's County, certain school zones in Baltimore City, and
8 the City of Takoma Park, if authorized by local law; and generally relating to the use
9 of stop sign monitoring systems in the City of Gaithersburg and the City of Rockville.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

11 Article – Transportation

12 Section 21-707

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

16 Article – Transportation

17 Section 21-707.1

18 Annotated Code of Maryland

19 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

21 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

22 **Article – Transportation**

23 21-707.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



17 (f) The driver of a vehicle approaching a yield sign at an intersection, if required
18 for safety to stop, shall stop at the near side of the intersection and, if there is no crosswalk,
19 at the nearest point before entering the intersection that gives the driver a view of traffic
20 approaching on the intersecting roadway.

21 21-707.1.

22 (a) This section applies only in:

23 (1) Prince George's County[, the];

(2) THE 45th and 46th Legislative Districts in Baltimore City[,];

25 (3) THE CITY OF GAITHERSBURG;

26 (4) THE CITY OF ROCKVILLE; and [the]

27 (5) THE City of Takoma Park.

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

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

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

3 (ii) "Owner" does not include:

7 (4) "Recorded image" means images recorded by a stop sign monitoring
8 system:

9 (i) On:

1. Two or more photographs;

11 2. Two or more microphotographs;

2 3. Two or more electronic images;

.3 4. Videotape; or

(ii) Showing a motor vehicle and, on at least one image or portion of tape, clearly identifying the registration plate number of the motor vehicle.

(5) "Stop sign monitoring system" means a device designed to capture a recorded image of a violation.

(6) (i) "Violation" means a failure to come to a complete stop at a stop sign in violation of § 21-707 of this subtitle.

(ii) "Violation" does not include any action a driver is instructed to take by a police officer.

23 (c) (1) Subject to paragraphs (2) through (5) of this subsection, an agency may
24 use stop sign monitoring systems:

25 (i) On highways located in a school zone maintained by a local
26 jurisdiction, if authorized by the governing body of the local jurisdiction; or

27 (ii) On State highways located in a school zone, if authorized by the
28 State Highway Administration.

29 (2) A stop sign monitoring system:

6 (3) Prince George's County shall prioritize the placement of stop sign
7 monitoring systems within municipalities that have high violation rates.

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

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

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

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

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

26 (3) For purposes of this section, the District Court shall prescribe;

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

5 (ii) The registration plate number of the motor vehicle involved in
6 the violation;

7 (iii) The violation charged;

8 (iv) To the extent possible, the location of the violation;

9 (v) The date and time of the violation;

10 (vi) A copy of the recorded image;

11 (vii) The amount of the civil penalty imposed and the date by which
12 the civil penalty must be paid;

13 (viii) A signed statement by a technician employed by the agency that,
14 based on the inspection of the recorded image, the motor vehicle was being operated during
15 the commission of a violation;

16 (ix) A statement that the recorded image is evidence of a violation;
17 and

18 (x) Information advising the person alleged to be liable under this
19 section:

20 1. Of the manner and time in which liability as alleged in the
21 citation may be contested in the District Court; and

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1 1. A statement made under oath that states the name and
2 last known mailing address of the individual driving or renting the motor vehicle when the
3 violation occurred;

4 2. A. A statement made under oath that states that the
5 motor vehicle rental company is unable to determine who was driving the vehicle at the
6 time the violation occurred because the motor vehicle was stolen at the time of the violation;
7 and

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

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

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

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

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

19 (i) Pay the civil penalty in accordance with instructions on the
20 citation; or

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

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

26 (2) Adjudication of liability shall be based on preponderance of the
27 evidence.

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

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

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

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

(2) To demonstrate that the motor vehicle or the registration plates were stolen before the violation occurred and were not under the control or possession of the owner at the time of the violation, the owner must submit proof that a police report about the stolen motor vehicle or registration plates was filed in a timely manner.

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

35 (i) If the civil penalty is not paid and the violation is not contested, the
36 Administration may refuse to register or reregister or may suspend the registration of the
37 motor vehicle

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

(1) Is not a moving violation for the purpose of assessing points under § 137-101 of this article and may not be recorded by the Administration on the driving record of the operator or driver of the vehicle; and

(2) May not be considered in the provision of motor vehicle insurance

(1) In consultation with law enforcement agencies, the Chief Judge of the Court shall adopt procedures for the issuance of citations, trials for violations, and imposition of civil penalties imposed under this section.

(2) The standards and requirements for the use, processing, and disposal of images and associated data established under § 12–113.1 of this article apply to images issued under this section.

(1) An agency or an agent or a contractor designated by the agency shall and process civil citations issued under this section in coordination with the art.

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

TION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before December 1, the City of Gaithersburg and the City of Rockville, respectively, shall each report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on:

(1) through October 1, 2028:

(i) the time period during which stop sign monitoring systems were in the local jurisdiction; and

(ii) the number of warnings and citations issued as a result of recorded by a stop sign monitoring system in the local jurisdiction over the period, by location and date;

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

(ii) the revenue collected on a monthly basis as a result of violations stop sign monitoring systems:

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

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

5 (5) the effectiveness of stop sign monitoring systems in reducing violations,
6 crashes, and pedestrian injuries in the local jurisdiction generally and in areas where the
7 stop sign monitoring systems were implemented and used.

8 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
9 1, 2026. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of June 30, 2029,
10 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and
11 of no further force and effect.