



**Testimony for the House Environment and Transportation
Committee**

February 6, 2020

**HB 38 – Vehicle Laws
Suspension for Failure to Pay Video Toll – Reform of Penalties**

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The ACLU of Maryland supports HB 38, which would prohibit the MVA from suspending or revoking a vehicle registration for failure to pay a toll and limiting the civil citation for a video toll violation to \$5 dollars.

This bill represents a smart and significant step toward reducing government overreach in Maryland. By eliminating the possibility of suspension or revocation for these offenses, the myriad of harmful consequences that accompany a loss of registration can be avoided, including being stopped, arrested, having your vehicle towed, loss of wages, job loss, and disruption to household stability.

This bill also limits the fine that can be imposed for a civil citation. Many individuals find themselves entangled in the legal system and may remain in pretrial detention simply for having driven on a suspended registration or the inability to pay an exorbitant amount for a civil citation for a toll violation. The consequences are especially dire for the immigrant population, many of who are parents of U.S. citizens, who may end up in deportation proceedings.

For the foregoing reasons, the ACLU of Maryland urges a favorable report on HB 38.

