



Maryland Motor Truck Association

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HEARING DATE: February 27, 2020
BILL NO/TITLE: **HB50 - Baltimore County - Vehicle Height Monitoring Systems**
COMMITTEE: Environment & Transportation
POSITION: **Support with Amendments**

Purpose: Baltimore City is the only jurisdiction in Maryland with the authority to use camera monitoring to enforce its truck routes. House Bill 50 would grant Baltimore County the same authority.

Background: In 2011 and 2012, Baltimore City spent two years working with the trucking industry and other stakeholders to complete a comprehensive review of legal truck routes in the City and develop a new truck map. Maryland Motor Truck Association (MMTA) partnered with the City at community meetings, presentations, ride-alongs and reviews of areas in the City where trucks travel in neighborhoods. For those reasons, MMTA supported legislation that gave the City the authority to use vehicle height monitoring systems to detect and fine trucks on prohibited roadways.

Trucks that use restricted routes are not always committing a violation. Garbage collection, package delivery, recycling, home heating fuel, household goods movers and furniture delivery trucks operate regularly in neighborhoods. **Every route becomes legal if you have to access it to make a pickup or delivery.**

MMTA is concerned about the unintended consequences of expanding camera enforcement in other jurisdictions, particularly given the high number of false positives these cameras generate amid the growing demand for more home deliveries being generated by e-commerce. However, as amended, HB51 offers several protections before these cameras may be expanded into Baltimore County. These protections include:

- Creating an industry workgroup to evaluate existing routes, update signage, and identify areas for electronic enforcement.
- Preventing citations from being issued to vehicles owned by truck leasing or rental companies.
- Delaying implementation until October 1, 2021.
- Requiring the County Council to adopt an ordinance limiting the overall number of cameras.

The amendments also direct the industry workgroup to make recommendations that:

- Create a map of height-restricted roads using the best available technology.
- Allow companies to transfer liability for violations to drivers operating their vehicles.
- Establish a clear process for abating a citation when a truck was legally on a camera-enforced route.

MMTA is committed to working with Baltimore County to address its challenges with trucks in residential areas. The Association believes the protections afforded in the amendments being offered are an important step to ensure smooth implementation of any camera monitoring system.

About Maryland Motor Truck Association: Maryland Motor Truck Association is a not-for-profit trade association representing the trucking industry since 1935. In service to its 1,000 members, MMTA is committed to supporting and advocating for a safe, efficient and profitable trucking industry across all sectors and industry types, regardless of size, domicile or type of operation.

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