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FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION, YOUTH, AND VICTIM SERVICES

Chair Barve, Vice-Chair Stein, Members of the Committee
Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

March 10, 2020

House Bill 275: Prince George's County - Speed Monitoring Systems - Maryland Route 210 (Indian Head Highway) PG 306-20

Position: Informational

Dear Chair Barve and Members of the Committee,

The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services is providing this letter of information on House Bill 275: Prince George's County - Speed Monitoring Systems - Maryland Route 210 (Indian Head Highway) PG 306-20.

This legislation would redirect fines collected by Prince George's County resulting from violations of the speed monitoring systems on Maryland Route 210 from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund to the State Highway Administration.

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board ("Board") makes financial assistance awards from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund ("CICF"), if the Board finds that the committed crime or delinquency act led to the (1) physical injury or death of the victim; or (2) psychological injury to the victim that necessitated mental health counseling.

The funding sources from the CICF are outlined in §11–819 of the Criminal Procedure Article. The CICF is funded by (1) court costs collected from defendants under § 7–409 of the Courts Article, (2) money distributed to the fund by speed monitoring systems on Maryland Route 210, (3) any investment earnings or federal matching funds received by the State for criminal injuries compensation, (4) and any additional funds available from any other sources.

Total CICF revenue collected from the District Court has reduced from \$3,193,127 in FY12 to \$2,233,107 in FY19, a reduction of around 30%. This is largely due to several factors including a reduction in criminal charges and dispositions and the use of speed and red light cameras for traffic enforcement. The decrease in revenues from the speed camera will also result in a reduction in federal revenues, as the State receives matching federal funds totaling 60% of the State funds expended.

Pursuant to legislation that passed last Session, on January 1, 2020, caps on amounts awards for funeral expenses and mental health treatment have increased. The Board does not currently know how the increased caps will affect the long-term solvency of the fund.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



V. Glenn Fueston, Jr.
Executive Director
Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services

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