



House Bill 383

Traffic Control Signal Monitoring Systems – Exclusion of Vehicle Rental Companies – Repeal and Notification Requirement

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Environment and Transportation
Committee

Date: January 21, 2021

From: Michael Sanderson

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 383. The bill would update laws regarding traffic safety technology when applied to rental vehicles.

Maryland's current laws for implementing red light cameras seek to promote public safety – local governments work with traffic engineers at areas of greatest concern to reduce violations. The program has generally been successful, and has advanced pedestrian and driver safety where they have been installed and used.

Short term rentals (not including long term leased vehicles) are a notable exception to this law's effectiveness. While the circumstances are obviously different, and appropriate for alternative treatment, drivers of rental cars are not sufficiently held accountable for their dangerous violations. HB 383 seeks to replace our current laws with a more direct—and apparent—scheme to hold those drivers accountable. Ideally, the best outcome would be a clear notice to individuals renting a car in Maryland that they will personally bear the financial burden of any fines arising from dangerous driving captured by camera, and that this notice would have a desired “chilling effect” and reduce this worrisome conduct.

HB 383 promotes safe streets by addressing a weakness in Maryland's current rules for traffic safety technology. Accordingly, MACo requests that the Committee give HB 383 a **FAVORABLE** report.