



Maryland Municipal League

The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

February 4, 2021

Committee: House Environment and Transportation

Bill: HB 475 - Speed Monitoring Systems in School Zones – Operation Times – Limitation

Position: Oppose

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League opposes House Bill 475 which limits the dates of speed camera operation in a school zone to only those during the regular school year.

When the authority to operate speed cameras was granted to local governments, the provision limiting their placement to a school zone was done with safety in mind as the presence of cameras slows driving speeds. School zones were a clear choice to promote safety due to the high concentration of children, many of whom walk along the roadways, in close proximity to a school. The hours of operation of speed cameras in school zones is from 6:00 am to 8:00 pm. This operating range extends from before the classes start to after classes end, as a recognition that school related activities occur outside class hours, including tutoring, rehearsals, club meetings, and sports practice.

By restricting speed camera operation in school zones to only during the regular school year, there will be several months over the summer when the camera is non-operational. This is particularly problematic because there are many activities that occur on school grounds over the summer that are both school related and informal, but all involve children being on the grounds. Some examples of summer activities at schools are summer school, sports tournaments, volunteer opportunities, and child care for working parents.

School zones were selected as a place for speed camera operation in order to improve the safety of our children. It is clear that activities occur on school grounds outside the regular school year and that HB 475 removes that safety mechanism for the summer months. For this reason, the Maryland Municipal League opposes HB 475 and respectfully requests an unfavorable committee report.

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