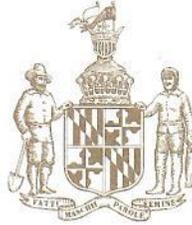


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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SPONSOR STATEMENT

Senate Bill 435 – Vehicle Laws – Failure to Pay Video Toll – Penalties

February 10, 2021

Mister Chairman and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

Maryland ranks right up with New York, New Jersey and California as one of the most heavily commuting states in the nation. Our residents use our roads to get to their jobs and often must travel through our toll systems.

Under current law, the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration can suspend a vehicle registration for failure to pay video toll debt. Passage of Senate Bill 435 would remove suspensions and flag the registration for non-renewal.

Many Maryland families are struggling financially and the pandemic has increased those numbers. Suspending a registration of a resident who is struggling to pay their debt forces them to make a choice of driving illegally or not getting to their jobs. It further limits their access to food, healthcare and other resources.

Removing suspension for toll violations aligns Maryland with the majority of states who are simply flagging the registration for non-renewal.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 435.