

HB626 Letter for JPR.pdf

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Maryland Motor Truck Association

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HEARING DATE: April 1, 2021

BILL NO/TITLE: HB626 - Prince George's County - Vehicle Height Monitoring Systems PG 305-21

COMMITTEE: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

POSITION: Support

Purpose: House Bill 626 would authorize Prince George's County and its 27 municipalities to use camera monitoring to enforce its truck routes. Currently only Baltimore City and Baltimore County have this authority.

Background: Baltimore City and Baltimore County have spent significant time working with trucking industry stakeholders to complete comprehensive reviews of legal truck routes, identify areas where trucks must have priority access, and develop maps showing the routes truck drivers should use. For those reasons, MMTA supported legislation that gave these jurisdictions the authority to use vehicle height monitoring systems to detect and fine trucks on prohibited roadways. Initially, HB626 did not require the same efforts from Prince George's County or its municipalities. However, a series of amendments were included in the legislation passed by the House. These amendments address concerns previously raised by Maryland Motor Truck Association about the unintended consequences of increased camera enforcement as there are a high number of false positives generated by these cameras. They commit Prince George's County to undergo a similar review to those completed in Baltimore City and Baltimore County. For those reasons, MMTA supports HB626 as amended.

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.

For further information, contact: Louis Campion, (c) 443-623-4223

HB0626 - Senate_FAV_NWRA_P.G. County - Veh. Height

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Maryland-Delaware Solid Waste Association
a chapter of the



**National
Waste & Recycling
Association**SM

Collect. Recycle. Innovate.

TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
Members, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
The Honorable Prince George's County Delegation

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman

DATE: April 1, 2021

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 626 – *Prince George's County – Vehicle Height Monitoring Systems PG 305-21*

The Maryland Delaware Solid Waste Association (MDSWA), a chapter of the National Waste and Recycling Association, is a trade association representing the private solid waste industry in the State of Maryland. Its membership includes hauling and collection companies, processing and recycling facilities, transfer stations, and disposal facilities. MDSWA and its members **support** House Bill 626.

House Bill 626 authorizes Prince George's County to place vehicle height monitoring systems on highways in the county. Both Baltimore City and Baltimore County have worked with the commercial trucking industry to craft a legislative and regulatory structure for the use of vehicle height monitoring systems as an enforcement mechanism. In both instances, program development has required the evaluation of several key factors, relevant to the creation of an effective program, that does not create unintended consequences for the legitimate presence of trucks on routes that may otherwise have restrictions. With respect to Baltimore County, legislation passed in 2020 specifically called for a workgroup to address the relevant issues prior to the implementation of the program. Since its implementation, the trucking industry has been working proactively with the County to develop its program.

House Bill 626 as amended reflects the same framework that has been successfully implemented in the Baltimore City and Baltimore County initiatives. The amendments adopted by the House are critically important to MDSWA members, given that garbage trucks are authorized to perform essential waste disposal services for County residents daily. Without a reasonable and well defined statutory and regulatory framework, the proliferation of vehicle height monitoring cameras would unintentionally and unnecessarily capture these trucks and workers, subjecting them to potential fines and penalties that would be dismissed anyway. Fortunately, as amended, the bill reflects a framework for which MDSWA can request a favorable report.

For more information call:

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Judiciary Committee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 30, 2021

Hon. Chairman William Smith

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Miller Senate Office Building

11 Bladen Street, Annapolis, Maryland

Good afternoon Chair Smith, Vicechair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee. I am Delegate Nicole Williams of District 22, and I will be testifying today on behalf of the Prince George's County Delegation in favor of House Bill 626, also known as Prince George's County - Vehicle Height Monitoring Systems (PG 305-21).

This issue was first brought to our attention by Mayor Alan Thompson of Riverdale Park, and has been introduced in the Maryland General Assembly with the full support of the Prince George's County House Delegation. The passage of this bill will enable Prince George's County and the local municipalities within Prince George's County to install monitoring systems to ensure the vehicles that are of a certain size are utilizing the streets within Prince George's County that they are legally allowed to use. Mayor Thompson has submitted written testimony talking about the problems that his town has had with large trucks traveling along residential streets even after reaching out to the trucking companies and installing signage that the roads are limited to certain vehicles. This issue is not limited to Riverdale Park, however, as many municipalities in our county experience the same problem.

This is not just an annoyance to our neighbors across the county - it also poses a financial burden to small municipalities, due to the damage these vehicles can cause to roads that the municipalities are required to maintain. Residential and local roads are not built to withstand traffic of large commercial vehicles, leading to sooner-than-anticipated repairs.

By enacting this legislation, Prince George's County and our local municipalities will be able to hold these drivers accountable for disobeying posted signage and traffic law. The

installation of vehicle height monitoring systems will aid in capturing images of those vehicles that disregard the law and regulations within our county. For those reasons, I urge the delegation to submit a favorable report for House Bill 626.

Sincerely,

Delegate Nicole Williams, Esq.