

Sen Washington Written Testimony SB520 E&T.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Mary Washington

Position: FAV

MARY L. WASHINGTON, PH.D
Legislative District 43
Baltimore City

Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs Committee

Chair
Joint Committee on Ending
Homelessness

Chair
Joint Committee on Children,
Youth, and Families



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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SB520 Motor Vehicles - Speed Limits - Establishment and Enforcement
Testimony of Senator Mary Washington
March 24, 2022

Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

In 2018, Baltimore adopted in City Code a new Complete Streets Ordinance that will alter the transportation landscape of the city. The Complete Streets approach will elevate the priority of pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users in planning and roadway design to increase quality of life and mobility in Baltimore City.

SB520 would authorize Baltimore City to decrease or raise to a previously established level; the maximum speed limit on a highway under its jurisdiction without performing an engineering and traffic investigation.

This bill is in the same posture as HB941 that passed the House (124-11) in 2021, but was not referred to this committee until March 23rd 2021.

Baltimore City's Complete Streets Manual has designated 10 different road types as an engineering document that would be guidance on the decisions to either raise or decrease speed limits.

SB520 also prohibits a local jurisdiction from implementing a new speed monitoring system to enforce speed limits on certain highways; and generally relating to the establishment and enforcement of speed limits on highways. This provision would prevent citizens from feeling like the new decrease in speed limits is a "Trap"

Transportation revitalization is important to Baltimore City's future. It is important that SB520 passes to enable Baltimore to create safer, more accessible and efficient streets and traffic patterns.

I respectfully request a favorable report on SB520.

In Partnership,

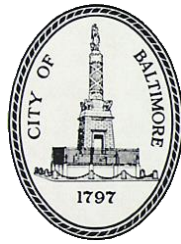
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mary Washington".

Senator Mary Washington, District 43

SB0520-ET-FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Natasha Mehu

Position: FAV



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

SB 520

March 24, 2022

TO: Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee
FROM: Natasha Mehu, Director, Office of Government Relations
RE: Senate Bill 520 - Baltimore City - Speed Limits – Establishment and Enforcement

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (HB) 520.

SB 520 authorizes the City of Baltimore to lower speed limits for roads based on the roadway type and industry best practice without requiring a traffic engineering study.

The Baltimore City Department of Transportation (DOT) published the City's first-ever Complete Streets Manual in the spring of 2021. Major components of the City's Complete Streets Manual include the formalization of design standards for promoting safer streets, slower speeds, and increased walkability as well as the establishment of street typologies for classifying City streets and standardizing roadway layout. If SB 520 434 were passed, Baltimore City DOT would use the City's Complete Streets Manual as a guide to identifying corridors ideal for the lowering of speed limits.

Safeguards are included in the legislation that will encourage Baltimore City DOT to utilize the speed limits authority thoughtfully and responsibly. A provision is built into the legislation, allowing the City of Baltimore to return speed limits to previously established levels. Additionally, the legislation would amend state law by prohibiting local jurisdictions from placing speed cameras on roads where speed limits have been reduced without conducting a traffic engineering study.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on SB 520.

SB0520 - SHA - Speed Limit Enforcement - Crossover

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: INFO



Larry Hogan
Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor
James F. Ports, Jr.
Secretary

March 24, 2022

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Chairman, House Environment and Transportation Committee
251 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

***Re: Letter of Information – Senate Bill 520 – Motor Vehicles – Speed Limits –
Establishment and Enforcement***

Dear Chairman Barve and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on Senate Bill 520 but offers the following information for the Committee's consideration.

Senate Bill 520 allows Baltimore City to alter the speed for traveling on any highway under its jurisdiction without performing an engineering or traffic study. Currently, in Baltimore City and the other 23 jurisdictions, State and local governments can change speed limits on highways under their respective jurisdiction only after completing an engineering or traffic study that conforms with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).

The MDOT State Highway Administration (SHA) encourages all jurisdictions to complete the appropriate engineering or traffic studies before changing speed limits on highways.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information when deliberating Senate Bill 520.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicole Stafford
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Maryland Department of Transportation
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