



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
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Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

HB 63

January 18, 2022

TO: Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee
FROM: Natasha Mehu, Director of Government Relations
RE: House Bill 63 – Vehicle Laws – Parking Enforcement
POSITION: **Oppose**

Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **opposes** House Bill 63.

HB 63 seeks to amend existing state parking enforcement law by requiring police officers to first compare make and body style of a motor vehicle to records on file with the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) prior to issuing a parking violation citation. Additionally, the legislation prohibits police officers from issuing a parking violation citation if the make and body style of a motor vehicle does not match MVA records.

Though we agree parking violation citations being issued accurately is of utmost importance, BCA is concerned that HB 63 would have a significant operational and fiscal impact on our local government. Specifically, the bill would increase costs, reduce efficiency, and frustrate parking enforcement capacity.

For example, Baltimore City Department of Transportation's (BCDOT) Safety Division Traffic Enforcement Officers (TEOs) issue over 300,000 parking violation citations annually. HB 63 would require the retrofitting of approximately 150 handhelds currently utilized by BCDOT TEOs to allow for access to MVA records, at a cost that has yet to be determined. The legislation would likely lead to a reduction in annual parking violation citations issued due to the increased processing time per violation. BCDOT's Safety Division currently estimates that HB 63 would result in the processing time to increase from roughly 3 minutes to 10 minutes per violation. A reduction in enforcement capacity stands to impact City residents, businesses, and stakeholders that consistently rely on TEO enforcement for a wide range of parking issues, including peak-hour parking, dedicated bus lanes, residential permit parking, metered parking, abandoned vehicles, and scofflaw violations.

We respectfully request an **unfavorable** report on House Bill 63.