

February 3, 2022

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

RE: Letter of Information – House Bill 230 – Speed Monitoring Systems – Exclusion of Vehicle Rental Companies – Repeal and Notification Requirement

Dear Chairman Barve and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 230 but offers the following information for the Committee's consideration.

House Bill 230 seeks to amend Transportation Article § 21-809 by repealing the exclusion of motor vehicle rental companies from enforcement provisions for violations that are recorded by a speed monitoring system. Prior to mailing a citation to the rental company, the agency would be required to mail a notice to the rental company, allowing them 45 days to identify the individual driving the rental vehicle when the violation occurred, provide a statement and supporting police report that the rental vehicle was stolen when the violation occurred, or provide payment for the violation.

The MDOT would like to note for the Committee that it has engaged in conversations with the bill sponsor. The MDOT looks forward to continuing its working relationship with the bill sponsor to ensure consistency between State and local automated enforcement systems. As such, the MDOT SHA suggested that House Bill 230 also amend Transportation Article § 21-810, which would repeal the exclusion of motor vehicle companies from enforcement provisions for violations recorded by a speed monitoring system in a work zone. This would be applicable to the MDOT SafeZones Program.

The MDOT SHA also encourages consistency in the process for issuing citations for violations of speed monitoring systems with existing law. As currently drafted, the earliest a citation could be issued to a rental car company for a violation is 59 days after the occurrence. Under existing law, citations must be mailed out to owners of in-state vehicles no later than 14 days from the occurrence of the violation and no later than 30 days to owners of out-of-state vehicles. The MDOT SHA suggests keeping House Bill 230 consistent with current processes.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information when deliberating House Bill 230.

Sincerely,

Nicole Stafford
State Legislative Manager
Maryland State Highway Administration
410-310-1056

Pilar Helm
Director of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-865-1090