

HB 264_FAV_MML.pdf

Uploaded by: Bill Jorch

Position: FAV



Maryland Municipal League
The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

February 3, 2022

Committee: House Environment and Transportation

Bill: HB 264 - Speed Monitoring Systems - School Zones - Nursery Schools

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League supports House Bill 264, which adds nursery schools to the list of qualified facilities around which a school zone can be created for the purpose of implementing speed cameras.

Currently, municipalities are authorized to place speed cameras within school zones in their jurisdiction after following a public process. There is a limitation, however, on the types of school facilities around which a school zone can be created. The current definition of school zone only allows for their creation around facilities that have school related activities for kids in kindergarten through twelfth grade.

The current speed camera law is targeted at reducing speeding in areas with children, and with good reason. HB 264 takes an incremental step by allowing school zones to be created around nursery schools, where there are large concentrations of very young children.

Speeding is a problem in many municipalities, and this bill adds one more type of facility that can benefit from the presence of speed cameras. As such, the League respectfully requests that this committee provide HB 264 with a favorable report.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Scott A. Hancock	Executive Director
Angelica Bailey	Director, Government Relations
Bill Jorch	Director, Research and Policy Analysis
Justin Fiore	Manager, Government Relations

1212 West Street, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

410-268-5514 | 800-492-7121 | FAX: 410-268-7004 | www.mdmunicipal.org

GTCC Letter Supporting HB 264.pdf

Uploaded by: Eric Rockel

Position: FAV

GTCC

The Greater Timonium Community Council

9b West Ridgely Road, Box 276, Timonium Maryland 21093
[http:// www. gtccinc.org](http://www.gtccinc.org)

The Honorable Kumar Barve, Chair
The Honorable Dana Stein, Vice Chair
Environment & Transportation Committee
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

January 31, 2022

Sent via email

Re: HB 264

Dear Members of the Committee:

We have an epidemic of drivers speeding in our communities! This problem is not confined to the greater Timonium area, where I reside, but in talking with community leaders in other parts of the county, they echo that speeding and the need for traffic calming is one of the top challenges in most residential communities. Frequently, speeding leads to reckless driving, which can result in property damage and personal injury, as well.

Now traffic calming can be effective in residential subdivisions that do not carry large amounts of traffic, but in our county the traffic engineers do not apply traffic calming measures to collector streets that carry higher traffic counts. Police enforcement of speeding regulations can only do so much because the demands on personnel are far greater than the personnel that can be applied to the problem. So, what is the solution?

Unfortunately, I do not have a silver bullet to correct the problem. I do know, however, that by placing more tools at the disposal of our subdivisions, we can attempt to mitigate this problem. House Bill 264 is one such tool in the tool chest. It is already recognized that K-12 schools should be protected by the use of speed cameras where appropriate, and I want to recommend that this protection be expanded to where nursery schools are located as well.

Residents in the Timonium area have expressed concerns that nursery school areas are vulnerable to the uncontrolled speeding that they are seeing.

On behalf of the members of the Greater Timonium Community Council, I urge your support for House Bill 264.

Sincerely,

Eric Rockel

President

HB0264 Bikemore Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Jed Weeks

Position: FAV



February 1, 2022

HB0264 - Bikemore Support

Bikemore is writing in support of HB0264 - Speed Monitoring Systems - School Zones -Nursery Schools.

Automated enforcement is proven through an extensive body of research to reduce injury and fatal crashes on roadways. Automated enforcement is also an important tool in reducing racial disparities in traffic enforcement as well as reducing risk for both members of the public and public safety officers during traffic stops.

Because of the proven evidence behind automated enforcement, it should be widely expanded without educational area restriction to save lives and reduce the policing burden of and increase equity in enforcement.

This bill doesn't do that, but it does fill a clear need in automated enforcement by expanding it to nursery schools, which serve our most vulnerable: young children. For that reason, this legislation has our support.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a letter of support on HB0264, and we encourage the Environment and Transportation Committee to issue a favorable report.

Sincerely,

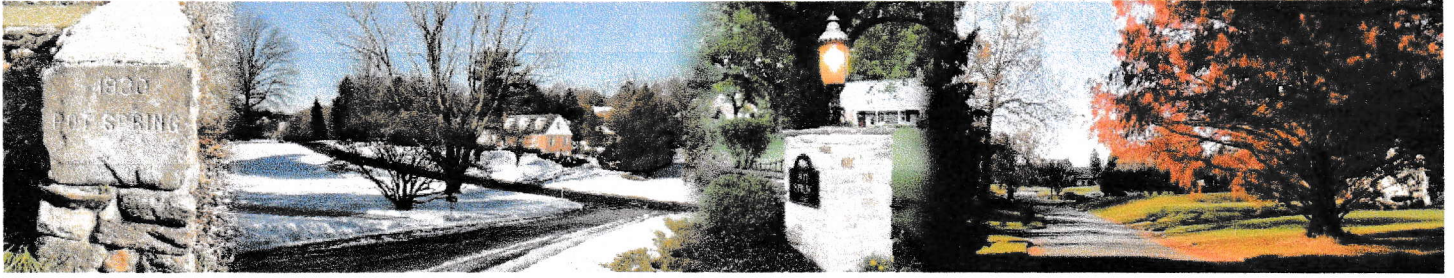
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jed Weeks', written over a horizontal line.

Jed Weeks
Interim Executive Director

HB 264_PSCA-fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Jeff Myers

Position: FAV



Pot Spring Community Association - PO Box 129 Timonium, Maryland 21094-0129

February 1, 2022

Delegate Kumar P. Barve, Chair
House Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: House Bill 264 - Speed Monitoring Systems – School Zones – Nursery Schools

Dear Committee Members:

The Pot Spring Community Association wholeheartedly supports the passage of House Bill 264. We urge a favorable report out of Committee because Maryland needs to stop speeding around our nursery schools where some of our most vulnerable citizens learn and play.

Reducing speeding elsewhere would be an admirable goal because in recent years speeding has led to an unprecedented increase in traffic and pedestrian fatalities and injuries.

<https://www.nhtsa.gov/press-releases/usdot-releases-new-data-showing-road-fatalities-spiked-first-half-2021> ; <https://www.forbes.com/sites/tanyamohn/2021/05/24/a-bad-year-for-walkersdeaths-surged-during-pandemic-despite-drop-in-driving/?sh=47d7a5f63654> .

Alas, getting drivers to stop speeding is an elusive goal. However, HB 264 is a concrete and easy solution to stop speeding around nursery schools. The simple solution?—expand the current law that applies to “school zones” to include nursery schools. That is what a favorable vote on HB 264 will do. If we are protecting kindergarten students, as the current statute does, why would we not protect nursery school students as well?

We urge all members of the Committee to vote for a favorable report on HB 264.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey H. Myers

President, Pot Spring Community Association

Ashley DFA Testimony for Bill.pdf

Uploaded by: Kathleen Beadell

Position: FAV

HB 264

The Dulaney Forest Community Association, which borders Pot Spring Road and Ridgely Roads in Timonium, MD 21093, is in favor of HB 264.

We feel that allowing speed cameras at nursery schools, as defined by the state of Maryland, will help keep children, parents, and guardians safe. Many nursery schools are located in churches, which may not have sidewalks to allow children to safely get out of streets. The cameras will help deter speeding and will bring attention to the existence of the school, which may not be obvious to a driver.

We are in full support of the bill and look forward to it becoming law in 2022.

Ashley Richardson
President
Dulaney Forest Community Association
1913 Knollton Road
Timonium MD 21093

410-868-1474

HB 264 - Favorable - Guyton.pdf

Uploaded by: Michele Guyton

Position: FAV

MICHELE GUYTON
Legislative District 42B
Baltimore County

Ways and Means Committee
Early Childhood Subcommittee
Education Subcommittee



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 306
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3793 • 301-858-3793
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 3, 2022

HB264–Speed monitoring system-School zones-Nursery schools – FAVORABLE

Dear Mr. Chair and Colleagues on the Environment and Transportation Committee,

I am writing to request a favorable report on HB 264. HB264 authorizes the expansion of school speed enforcement zones to areas near nursery schools. Current statute only includes K-12 schools in this definition.

This change has been requested by community members to help address excessive speeds on major thoroughfares. Since being enacted in 2009 by this GAM, Maryland's SafeZones program has been extremely effective, reporting a near 90 percent reduction of vehicles speeding more than 12 miles above the speed limit in SafeZone areas. Nursery schools, defined in COMAR as an educational program for 2-5 years, need similar protections.

HB264 enables counties to implement school speed enforcement zones near nursery schools if they choose to do so. I thank you for your attention to this matter and request a favorable report on HB264.

Thank you,

Delegate Michele Guyton D42B

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Delegate Michele Guyton".

National Safety Council MD0264 Automated Enforceme

Uploaded by: Tara Ackerman

Position: FAV



February 1, 2022

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

The Honorable Dana Stein
Vice Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Barve and Vice Chair Stein,

The National Safety Council encourages you to support HB0264, which would expand the definition of school zone to include nursery schools for the utilization of speed monitoring systems.

NSC is America's leading nonprofit safety advocate and has been for over 100 years. As a mission-based organization, we work to eliminate the leading causes of preventable death and injury, focusing our efforts on the workplace, roadway and impairment. We create a culture of safety to keep people safer in the workplace and beyond so they can live their fullest lives. Our more than 15,000 member companies represent employees at more than 50,000 U.S. worksites. NSC is proud to lead the national Road to Zero Coalition with the goal of eliminating roadway fatalities by 2050.

Automated enforcement technologies are a proven life-saving tool. According to a system analysis completed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), automated enforcement is highly effective in slowing down drivers and saving lives on the roadways.¹ Automated enforcement helps ensure people drive at posted speed limits, which reduces the severity and likelihood of crashes.² It monitors speeding and other risky driving behaviors, allowing law enforcement to focus their limited resources on other community priorities. Automated enforcement, deployed using data to show the most dangerous roadways, can help ensure equitable enforcement.

HB0264 will make nursery school zones safer by ensuring proper speed adherence in these high risk areas. Nine out of 10 pedestrians would *survive* being struck by a vehicle traveling at 20 mph, while 9 out of 10 pedestrians would be *killed* at 40 mph. We should provide the highest level of safety for nursery schools as well as school zones by ensuring vehicles operating around them are driving at posted lower speeds.

¹ https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.dot.gov/files/812257_systemanalysisase.pdf

² Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Crash Facts & Statistics, 2016:
http://www.penndot.gov/TravelInPA/Safety/Documents/2016_CFB_linked.pdf.

In Maryland, the *SafeZones* Automated Speed Enforcement program is successful example of automated enforcement improving safety. Since its inception in 2010, there has been a 90% decrease in the number of vehicles traveling 12 mph or more above the work zone speed limit.³

Eliminating roadway fatalities cannot be done without massive, near-term gains in highway safety, and we must use every tool at our disposal to save lives, which includes stronger laws around speed enforcement. If you have any questions please contact Tara Leystra at 202-445-3121 or tara.leystra@nsc.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lorraine Martin".

Lorraine Martin
President and CEO

CC: House Environment and Transportation Committee

³ Maryland *SafeZones*. The Facts about Maryland's *SafeZones* Program, Summer 2019:
https://www.roads.maryland.gov/OC/Maryland_SafeZones_Fact_Sheet_2019_Winter.pdf

