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The Maryland House of Delegates
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Sponsor Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 469

Motor Vehicle Administration - Traffic Control Signal Monitoring Systems - Reciprocal Agreements

February 10, 2022

House Bill 469 would improve traffic safety by authorizing a pilot reciprocity program for red light camera enforcement.

It is identical to HB373 of 2020, but what has changed is that the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments recently wrote a letter to the Maryland and Virginia Governors and the Mayor of the District of Columbia requesting action to address the problem of out-of-state drivers endangering communities by breaking traffic laws with impunity.

According to the December 2018 report of the Joint Committee on Federal Relations, local law enforcement agencies with red light camera programs have a better collection rate for in-state vehicles than for out-of-state vehicles. This is due to the inability to flag out-of-state vehicle registrations for non-renewal. As of June 2018, Montgomery County was owed \$2.7 million in red light camera citations incurred by vehicles registered out-of-state.

Red Light camera citation average compliance rates:

County	In-state	Out-of-state
Howard County 2013-2017 (26 cameras)	92%	78%
Montgomery 2010-2018 (51 cameras)	94%	81%
Prince George's 2022 (46 cameras)	96.6%	82%

If HB469 is enacted, Maryland law enforcement agencies could flag out-of-state red light camera violator vehicles for non-renewal, improving collection rates. Registration of Maryland vehicles with red light camera citations in partner states could be similarly flagged, but not suspended. The Motor Vehicle Administration could only establish reciprocity with a state that has similar penalties.

The committee may want to consider an amendment to include reciprocity for toll enforcement. DC has no toll roads but as of August 2021, DC drivers owed \$13M in unpaid tolls to the MDTA.

Thank you for all you do to keep our communities safe by embracing the concept of Vision Zero.

Because House Bill 469 is consistent with your efforts and would improve safety in the entire DMV region, I ask for your favorable report.

HB469: Red Light camera reciprocity:

County	average compliance rate		Value of unpaid out-of-state red light camera citations
	In-state	Out-of-state	
Howard County 2013-2017 (26 cameras)	92%	78%	\$225,225
Montgomery 2010-2018 (51 cameras)	94%	81%	\$2.7 million
Regional Automated Enforcement Center (11 partner agencies spanning 6 counties) 2013-2017	90%	67%	\$1.6 million

“Support of Potential Reciprocity Arrangements with Regional States: The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association would support any efforts to establish reciprocity agreements with regional states regarding automated enforcement violations (similar in nature to the Nonresident Violator Compact for moving violations). Most unpaid citations issued to out-of-state vehicle owners are for vehicles registered in surrounding jurisdictions, largely in the District of Columbia, Pennsylvania and Virginia. Maryland jurisdictions currently have limited ability to collect fines from out-of-state vehicle owners who choose not to pay. For in-state vehicle owners, the flagging of vehicle registrations, preventing renewal, is believed to be a significant reason why unpaid citations are eventually paid. That enforcement mechanism, however, is not currently available with respect to out-of-state vehicle owners.”

Source: September 2018 briefing materials in December 2018 Joint Committee on Federal Relations report to the Legislative Policy Committee