

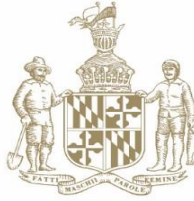
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Legislative District 2A
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Committee

Subcommittees

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HB1071, Speed Monitoring Systems – Real-Time Posting of Vehicle Speed.

I am pleased to present HB1071. The language of this bill may look familiar – it is essentially the same language that this Committee has graciously adopted as amendments to the various speed camera bills over the past few legislative sessions.

The bill simply states that speed monitoring systems placed on or after October 1, 2022 must include a device that displays the real-time posting of the speed at which a driver is traveling prior to reaching the section of highway where the speed camera itself is located.

Research has shown that speed displays significantly reduce vehicle speeds. In one study, the average speed entering a school zone was 10 mph higher than the posted speed prior to the installation of the speed display device, and only 1 mph higher than the posted speed subsequent to the installation of the speed display device. Other studies have shown that the average speed is reduced on average by about 17.5% with the presence of speed monitoring displays.

MD SHA's own research has shown that the use of a speed display trailer has reduced speeds in work zones by 2 to 7 mph and have increased speed compliance by as much as 10% to 40%. The current practice of the MD State Highway Administration is utilization of speed display devices in all work zones within the State where speed cameras are implemented.

I would further like to refute any allegations that utilization of real-time posting of speed signs minimizes the collection of fine revenue, even though we all know that the use of speed cameras is NOT about the collection of revenue. As an example, 16,418 speed camera citations were issued during the 11-month period from February 2021 – December 2021 at the work zone in Washington County at the intersection of Sharpsburg Pike (MD State Route 65) and I-70. This work zone fully utilizes the use of the real-time posting of speed signs, as is the practice of SHA; yet, at \$40.00 per violation, approximately \$657,000 in fines was still imposed during this 11-month period at this one construction site.

Additionally, the cost of speed display signs is relatively inexpensive, with some costing as low as \$2,800. They are LED display and solar-powered so installation is minimal.

I ask for a favorable report on HB1071 and I thank you in advance for your consideration of this bill.

Thank you.