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March 30, 2022

The Honorable William Smith Jr.  
Chairman, Judicial Proceeding Committee  
2 East Miller Senate 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 Smith 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 would repeal the exclusion of motor vehicle rental companies from enforcement provisions for violations that are recorded by automated enforcement systems. As amended, House Bill 230 would authorize sending citations electronically, in a manner prescribed by the motor vehicle rental company. Prior to sending 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.

In order to apply to the MDOT SafeZones Program, the MDOT would recommend 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, in addition to § 21-809. Currently, House Bill 230 would only apply to local automated enforcement programs under Transportation Article § 21-809, when local entities place speed cameras on roadways.

The MDOT SHA encourages consistency in the process for issuing citations for violations of automated enforcement systems with existing law. As House Bill 230 is 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 aligning House Bill 230 to be consistent with current citation issuing processes.

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The MDOT would suggest defining the term “electronically” as it relates to how citations may be sent to Motor Vehicle Rental Companies, upon request. Including an additional method of issuing citations, such as electronically, would require additional administrative resources and could lead to confusion for other motor vehicle owners, who are not associated with a rental car company, who received a citation in the mail.

The MDOT encourages consistency among Transportation Article § 21-809 and § 21-810 as it relates to automated enforcement systems and the process in which citations are issued, to both rental car companies and other motor vehicle owners who use our transportation network.

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