



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

March 30, 2022

TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Marc Elrich
County Executive

RE: House Bill 813, *Montgomery County – Speed and School Bus Monitoring Systems MC 03-22*
Support

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 813, *Montgomery County – Speed and School Bus Monitoring Systems MC 03-22*.

House Bill 813 requires Montgomery County, in coordination with the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), to examine school bus stop violation data that includes the number of violations at particular school bus stops, a breakdown of the violations by the direction in which the involved vehicles were traveling relative to the stopped school bus, the total amount of fines issued for the violations, as well as a look at the historical record over five years of school bus stop violations. Additionally, the County, in coordination with MDOT, must examine operational alternatives (e.g., implementing hyperlocal public education campaigns in multiple languages, erecting better signage and markings at school bus stops, examining lesser penalties for a driver's first offense, etc.) with the intended result of alerting motorists to Maryland's law prohibiting a vehicle from passing a stopped school in the opposite direction of a multi-laned road that does not have a permanent median divider. The fine for drivers who are ticketed by a school bus stop-arm camera is \$250.

House Bill 813 will help to improve pedestrian safety, driver expectancy, and raise awareness of Maryland's school bus camera law. The reporting requirements in the bill also align with Montgomery County's commitment to transparent and accountable enforcement programs.

I respectfully request that the Committee adopt a favorable report on House Bill 813.

cc: Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee