

HB_391_Sponsor Testimony_Healey

Uploaded by: Del. Anne Healey

Position: FAV

ANNE HEALEY
Legislative District 22
Prince George's County

Chair
Rules and Executive
Nominations Committee

Environment and Transportation
Committee

Chair
Local Government and
Bi-County Issues Subcommittee



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**Supporting Testimony for HB 391 – Vehicle Laws –
Parking Enforcement - Citations
February 16, 2023
House Environment and Transportation Committee**

Chair Barve and Committee:

For the record, I am Delegate Anne Healey asking for a favorable vote for HB 391 – Vehicle Laws – Parking Enforcement – Citations. Thank you for the opportunity to present HB 391, a bill which requires State and local agencies to print a box on citations so a driver can dispute a citation that does not match the registration plates; prohibits drivers from sending in falsely checked citations; and requires the agency to investigate the dispute.

The purpose of this bill is to alleviate constituents from having to navigate a complicated process when they have reported their tags stolen or when the citation is inadvertently written incorrectly.

I have constituent whose permanent disability tags were stolen, which had already been reported to the MVA when a citation was issued on the vehicle. He eventually took several measures to resolve the issue but because the agencies do not communicate

with one another in the same manner they do when an administrative flag needs to be lifted for registration purposes, there is an undue burden placed on him.

The purpose of the box on the citation was to address the issues raised by Baltimore City Administration's testimony last year, which would require police officers to investigate prior to issuing a ticket in the moment, and the administrative cost of retrofitting handhelds. Enforcement officers and/or citation writers would not need to do anything other than issue the citation so there is no extra work in the field, making the administrative process more efficient for everyone, especially when a tag is stolen. When the tags are disability tags, it creates a greater burden on the citizen to resolve the matter.

With that, I urge a favorable vote on HB 391.

HB 391 - UNF - MML.pdf

Uploaded by: Bill Jorch

Position: UNF



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

TESTIMONY

February 16, 2023

Committee: House Environment and Transportation

Bill: HB 391 - Vehicle Laws - Parking Enforcement - Citations

Position: Oppose

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League opposes House Bill 391, which places additional burden on municipal governments to enforce parking citations in their jurisdiction. Specifically, the bill requires a change to the ticket issued for a parking violation and mandates that municipal governments investigate a claim that the ticket was issued erroneously.

MML has three main concerns with the bill as introduced:

1. The mandate that the municipality investigate whether the claim that a license plate does not match the vehicle to which it is registered is onerous and could potentially create a serious administrative burden.
2. Some municipalities utilize a third party vendor to administer their parking enforcement and it is unclear in the bill exactly what their role in the appeals process will be. It appears as though the responsibility to investigate the claim falls to the municipal government despite the fact they are contracted with a third party for parking enforcement responsibilities.
3. There is an upfront cost to reprint the parking citations to include the mandatory check box. In some cases this cost will be significant.

The problem that this bill attempts to address is a legitimate one, but MML opposes the manner in which this bill places mandates on local governments. There is already a remedy for vehicle owners to contest a ticket in instances where the license plate does not match the vehicle's description. As such, the League respectfully requests that this committee provide HB 391 with an unfavorable report.

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HB0391-ET-UNF.pdf

Uploaded by: Nina Themelis

Position: UNF



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
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HB 391

February 16, 2023

TO: Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee
FROM: Nina Themelis, Interim Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations
RE: House Bill 391 – Vehicle Laws - Parking Enforcement - Citations
POSITION: Oppose

Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **opposes** House Bill 391.

HB 391 requires that parking citations include a box which recipients may tick to indicate that the cited registration plates do not match the vehicle described in the citation. The citation is then returned to the issuer, who must then verify that the right vehicle was cited. This process would impede our ability to deliver an acceptable level of parking enforcement while adding cost and complication to an already time and staff-intensive process.

The legislation establishes a review process which places the onus on the citing agency and relieves motorists from what can be a daunting appeal process. However, the current state of parking enforcement is complex and time consuming. At this time, we are concerned about the impacts of this bill for the following reasons:

- Enforcement officers do not have the ability to run registration plates on the field.
- Staff shortages and technology barriers pose challenges to on-site plate verification.
- Localities need time and support to modernize parking enforcement efforts.
- The legislation could contribute to a backlog of contested citations.
- City agencies strive to prevent invalid citations and time-consuming court appeals.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully request an **unfavorable** report on HB 391. Once again, we ask that you consider the potential negative ramifications of this bill on parking enforcement operations in Baltimore City and both counties and municipalities statewide.