



**AAA Mid-Atlantic's Testimony in OPPOSITION to HB 139
Speed Monitoring Systems - Municipal Corporations - Statements and Certificates
of Violation**

Sponsors: Delegates Kerr and Fair

- AAA Mid-Atlantic **opposes House Bill 139**, which would remove a key component of AAA's initial support of automated enforcement in Maryland – the requirement that “*a duly authorized law enforcement officer employed by or under contract with an agency*” must sign a statement and inspect the recorded image of an alleged violation recorded by a speed monitoring system.
- While visible traffic enforcement by police and other law enforcement officers remains the most effective means of deterring violations of traffic laws, AAA recognizes that staffing issues and other priorities that law enforcement officers face make traffic enforcement challenging at times.
- We also recognize the important role that automated enforcement, coupled with police involvement, can play in traffic safety for motorists, pedestrians, and other road users by improving compliance with red lights, speed limits, and other traffic control devices.
- AAA supports the use of automated enforcement systems that are fair and reasonable and don't undermine or violate the public trust.
- To ensure the public's trust, and as a condition of AAA's initial support of automated enforcement in Maryland, several recommendations were made, to include:
 - Local agencies, not contractors, must be responsible for intersection or roadway selection, verifying proper camera installation and operation, and determining that a violation has occurred;
 - Automated enforcement programs should be operated **only under the direct supervision and control of state-certified law enforcement personnel**; and
 - **Only those citations that have been reviewed and approved by law enforcement may be issued.**
- We, at AAA, believe that removing the requirement that a law enforcement officer review and sign an automated citation undermines the credibility of the automated enforcement program.
- Automated traffic enforcement programs are a police function. HB 139 seeks to remove the police function, which AAA does not support.
- Because civilians are not legally permitted to issue a moving violation, what training and expertise will a “municipal employee,” without prior law enforcement training or expertise, possess that would qualify them to review and validate an automated traffic infraction?

- AAA supports automated enforcement that is part of a comprehensive traffic safety strategy that involves engineering, education, and officer enforcement.
- By removing the officer review and verification of automated speed tickets, HB 139 seeks to remove a significant component of Maryland's automated speed monitoring program that AAA **does not** support.
- On behalf of AAA Mid-Atlantic's over one million Maryland members, we urge the Committee to give **HB139** an **unfavorable** report.

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