



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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