

# **SB 961\_ Motor Vehicles - School Bus Monitoring Cam**

Uploaded by: Alexa Thomas

Position: FAV



**PSSAM**  
Public School Superintendents' Association  
OF MARYLAND

**Mary Pat Fannon, Executive Director**  
1217 S. Potomac Street  
Baltimore, MD 21224  
410-935-7281  
marypat.fannon@pssam.org

---

**BILL:** SB 961

**TITLE:** Motor Vehicles - School Bus Monitoring Cameras - Issuance of Citations

**DATE:** March 21, 2023

**POSITION:** Support

**COMMITTEE:** Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

**CONTACT:** Mary Pat Fannon, Executive Director, PSSAM

---

The Public School Superintendents' Association of Maryland (PSSAM), on behalf of all twenty-four local school superintendents, **supports** Senate Bill 961.

Senate Bill 961 would extend the time period within which a law enforcement agency is required to mail certain citations for violations recorded by school bus monitoring cameras from two weeks to thirty days.

Maryland's superintendents support this change in statute in order to promote awareness of school bus traffic violations and advocate for student safety. Currently, there are four major state automated ticketing programs -- red light, speed enforcement, height monitoring, and school bus stop-arm. Of these four programs, only school bus stop-arm violations are given a maximum of two weeks to complete their review process and have the violation postmarked by USPS. Red light, speed enforcement, and height monitoring violations, however, all provide some version of a thirty-day time frame to process citations.

The current two-week time restriction inhibits courts from fully processing citations for all school bus stop-arm traffic violations. In order to fully process a citation from a violation recorded on a school bus monitoring camera, the vendor has to first gather data from the equipment under the school system's control, prepare it, and then send it to law enforcement. Local law enforcement then has to review the data and determine whether to issue the citation. Currently, some offenders do not get citations for running school bus stop arms simply because two weeks does not afford enough time to get the citation in the mail after the entire process is complete. Because of this, many would-be recipients of traffic citations never receive any

notification of their violation. Without a citation informing them of their violation, many drivers will continue to commit these traffic violations. This issue clearly poses a risk to the wellbeing and safety of Maryland's students.

Senate Bill 961 would put the State of Maryland in line with New York, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Connecticut, which allow for all violations to be processed within at least 20 (and preferably 30) days. This change in statute would allow adequate time for the additional steps needed in the school bus camera process that the other automated ticketing enforcement programs do not have to deal with, including breaks in the school calendar, holidays, and limited business hours of transportation or security services departments.

For these reasons, PSSAM **supports** Senate Bill 961 and requests a **favorable** report.

**MD 30 day support bill signed.pdf**

Uploaded by: K. Alexander Wallace

Position: FAV

March 20, 2023

Maryland Senate  
Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SB 961

Chairman Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

The Judicial Proceedings Committee has long championed public safety legislation that has not only made Maryland's roads safer, but also saved numerous lives. Maryland continues to lead the nation in its use of innovative technology to deter reckless driving. SB 961 furthers this end.

One such initiative, the school bus stop arm camera program – adopted by numerous Maryland counties, including Prince George's, Carroll, Montgomery, Charles, Cecil, Queen Anne's, Harford, and others to make the ride to and from school safer for students riding the school bus – has seen laudable results. Across these programs, 98% of motorists held accountable for violating the school bus stopping law never repeat the offense again. Moreover, this program has particularly enhanced traffic safety concerning Maryland's most vulnerable students.

Parents, school officials, and Marylanders at-large recognize that school bus stop arm violations are particularly egregious. Drivers who endanger the life of a child by running past a stopped school bus ought to be held accountable for their reckless behavior. In numerous neighboring states, including Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New York, law enforcement typically has 30 days to mail a citation upon inspection of school bus stop arm violation video footage. North Carolina even permits mailing within 60 days. **Maryland stands out by permitting only two weeks for citation mailing. At times, due to strained local resources or technical difficulties, some offenders can avoid accountability due to this restrictive statutory timeline technicality.**

**SB 961 brings Maryland in line with standard best practices across the nation, by permitting a 30-day turnaround time for citation mailing.** This way, those who endanger the lives of Maryland students cannot avoid accountability through a statutory loophole. As Maryland's top school bus stop arm service provider, we strongly urge your consideration and support for SB 961.

Sincerely,



Stephen Randazzo  
Executive Vice President  
BusPatrol America LLC