

SAMUEL I. "SANDY" ROSENBERG
Legislative District 41
Baltimore City

Health and Government Operations
Committee

Chair

Health Occupations and
Long-Term Care Subcommittee

House Chair

Joint Committee on Administrative,
Executive, and Legislative Review



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Respond to Office Indicated

□ *Annapolis Office*
The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 365
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3297 · 301-858-3297
800-492-7122 Ext. 3297
Samuel.Rosenberg@house.state.md.us

□ *District Office*
4811 Liberty Heights Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21207
410-664-2646

Testimony of Delegate Samuel I. Rosenberg
Before the House Environment and Transportation Committee
In Support of
House Bill 492
Baltimore City - Speed Monitoring Systems on Interstate 83 –
Unpaid and Overdue Citations

Mister Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Speed cameras play a crucial role in regulating speed and reducing traffic in metropolitan areas such as Baltimore. By making drivers recognize the danger and expense of breaking the law, these cameras discourage them from speeding.

In 2021, the General Assembly passed House Bill 967, Baltimore City – Speed Monitoring Systems – Interstate 83, authorizing no more than two speed monitoring systems for use on that roadway. Fines collected from this program must be put towards roadway improvements on I-83.

Under existing law, the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration may place administrative sanctions on drivers fined under the program, including prohibiting registration or transfer of a vehicle with an infraction.

Based on information provided by Baltimore City, the following are the current numbers for Partial-Paid violations:

Tag-Count 12,596

Violation – Count 33,982

Fine – Total \$2,159,280

That \$2 million can be put towards roadway improvements and measures to improve driver safety.

House Bill 492 would require Baltimore City to notify the Motor Vehicle Administration if an owner or driver of a vehicle has accumulated more than \$250 in unpaid and overdue citations recorded by speed monitoring systems on the Jones Falls Expressway. Unpaid violations of at least \$250 represent about seven (7) violations per tag, far beyond any reasonable number of infractions that should be excused or for which delays should be allowed.

HB 492 passed the Baltimore City Delegation by a unanimous vote with several key amendments. First, it authorizes Baltimore City to immobilize a vehicle with \$250 in citations. Second, it requires that the 5th and subsequent notices to the owner or driver of a vehicle include a warning.

For the current owner, the MVA would refuse to renew the registration, and upon sale of the vehicle, the new owner would be responsible for payment of unpaid and overdue citations before the Administration registers the vehicle. In this way, owners and potential owners are aware of the violations incurred by the vehicle.

It is imperative to ensure that individuals who violate rules are held accountable. The revenue generated - and ultimately collected - from these efforts can be utilized to fund vital roadway improvements aimed at benefiting all users of this major roadway.

For all of these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE report for HB 492.

March 12, 2024