



**MARYLAND MUNICIPAL
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In Partnership With Our Communities

February 5, 2024

To Whom It May Concern;

The executive board of the Maryland Municipal League Police Executive Association, which represents the 80+ municipal police departments across the State of Maryland, supports House Bill 282 – Speed Monitoring Systems - Agencies - Statements and Certificates of Violations as proposed by Delegate Kerr. This bill would amend the current provisions of the Maryland Transportation Article §21-809, to allow a duly authorized law enforcement officer or a technician employed by an agency, to issue the certificate of violation (citation) for speed camera violations and for their signature to be sufficient for admissibility by the courts.

The use of automated enforcement in law enforcement has been a force multiplier for law enforcement agencies in Maryland and across the nation, while at the same time reducing speeds, reducing crashes, and saving lives. Smaller police departments in Maryland, which account for the largest number of police departments in our State, have struggled and continue to struggle with the manpower and resources to effectively implement automated enforcement systems. Many of the smaller police departments struggle with meeting the most basic service of providing patrol coverage within their towns and cities. HB 282 would allow those smaller municipalities, both those with a police department and those without, to start a speed camera system by allowing the use of non-sworn “technicians” to review and sign the citations generated by these systems. The ability of the smaller agencies to use “technicians” as opposed to active, sworn law enforcement officers opens up many options for these towns and cities, such as civilian staff, retired officers, Auxiliary or Reserve Officers, and other officers currently in “non-officer” status. The benefits are many – not reducing patrol staffing, not mandating overtime for sworn officers, and minimizing “out of service” time for sworn officers while attending court for speed citations, as well as the previously described benefits of reducing speeds, reducing crashes, and saving lives.

It is for these reasons, the most important of which is the saving of countless lives on our roadways, that the Maryland Municipal League Police Executive Association strongly supports the passage of HB 282, as presented.

Sincerely,

Chief Michael A. Spaulding
Chairman, MML PEA