
February 15, 2024

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee
251 House Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401

RE: Letter of Support – House Bill 552 – Vehicle Laws - Automated Enforcement Citations and Notices - Mailing Addresses

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) supports House Bill 552 as a needed customer service and administrative efficiency improvement.

House Bill 552 requires a jurisdiction issuing an automated enforcement civil citation to ensure the current mailing address on the vehicle's record, or current residential address if a mailing address is not specified, is used for mailing the civil citation resulting from an automated enforcement device issued by a jurisdiction.

The Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) flags vehicle accounts registered in Maryland on behalf of hundreds of jurisdictions across the State whose automated enforcement fine notices for red light camera, speed camera, toll camera, and school bus camera civil citations go unpaid within the required period (typically a 30-day window for payment). This flag prevents a customer from renewing a motor vehicle and charges the customer \$30 for each flag to be paid to the MVA when it is removed.

In the course of addressing these fines, it has become apparent to MVA staff that some jurisdictions may not be checking MVA records to ensure the most current address is used on mailed enforcement fine notices. In other instances, there are some jurisdictions that utilize the residential address instead of the mailing address clearly provided in a customer's record when mailing enforcement fine notices to violators.

These instances where the current address, or residential address instead of a customer's mailing address, are used for delivery purposes prevent the customer from knowing about the violation until the MVA informs them a flag – and corresponding flag fee – has been placed on their account (additionally, a courtesy reminder of the flag is given again at time of vehicle registration renewal). House Bill 552 will ensure a uniform procedure for all jurisdictions across the state to avoid this dilemma some face as customers that have properly kept their mailing address up to date with the MVA will be sent a mailed notice at that current address, ensuring they can receive it and avoid additional fees and delays in resolving enforcement notices.

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For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee grant House Bill 552 a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

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