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Uploaded by: Samuel Rosenberg

Position: FAV

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

HB0492-ET-FWA.pdf

Uploaded by: Nina Themelis

Position: FWA



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

HB0492

March 12, 2024

TO: Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee
FROM: Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations
RE: House Bill 492 – Speed Monitoring Systems on Interstate 83 - Unpaid and Overdue Citations
POSITION: Support with Amendment

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 492 with the amendment proposed by the sponsor allowing for the immobilization of vehicles in violation.

HB 492 would require Baltimore City to report to the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) vehicles that have amassed over \$250 in unpaid, overdue moving violations recorded by Interstate 83 (I-83) speed cameras. An amendment introduced by Delegate Rosenberg would allow the City to immobilize vehicles that exceed this threshold. The legislation would require these offenders to be documented and reported to the MVA, improving accountability and collaboration. Further, the amendment would mirror the City's authority to immobilize vehicles with three or more overdue parking violations.

The I-83 speed camera program has allowed the City to reduce speeding and crashes along the highway since implementation in mid-2022. However, some motorists have been slow to change their behavior and continue to travel at dangerous speeds.

As amended, HB 492 would allow for the immobilization of these offenders and create several benefits. For instance, out of state drivers may feel little urgency to address or avoid accruing I-83 speed camera citations as we do not benefit from reciprocity with several surrounding states. In those instances, immobilization could present a strong deterrent to drivers outside the jurisdiction of the Maryland MVA. Frequent and repeated violation of speed camera law is indicative of a general disregard for following the laws on our roads and could lead to serious injury or death due to a potential crash if not properly addressed. Allowing immobilization of vehicles accruing a significant number of speed violations on I-83 will improve road safety for all motorists.

In addition to acting as a deterrent, immobilization authority and improved collaboration between the City and the MVA could lead to an increase to I-83 citation collection rates. This would generate additional funding which is by law reserved for improvements along the highway, therefore bolstering the City's efforts to improve safety and driving conditions.

The BCA believes that the provisions of HB 492 and its amendments would deter unsafe driving in Baltimore City and contribute to further reductions in crashes along Interstate 83.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **favorable with amendment** report on HB 492.

HB0492 - MVA – Baltimore City - Speed Monitoring

Uploaded by: Pilar Helm

Position: INFO

March 12, 2024

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

RE: Letter of Information – House Bill 492 – Motor Vehicles – Baltimore City – Speed Monitoring Systems on Interstate 83 – Unpaid and Overdue Citations

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 492 but offers the following information for the Committee’s consideration.

House Bill 492 would prevent Baltimore City from imposing administrative sanctions that include refusal to register a vehicle or transfer a vehicle’s registration unless it has accrued a minimum of \$250 in unpaid automated speeding enforcement tickets on Interstate 83 within Baltimore City.

House Bill 492 would alter the eligibility of when Baltimore City can issue a flag to the MVA for unpaid moving violations related to automated speed enforcement on Interstate 83. The MDOT Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) would like to clarify for the committee that it regularly prevents registration renewal on a vehicle or transfer of a vehicle’s registration when a jurisdiction issues a flag on a vehicle record for unpaid moving violations – this legislation would just introduce a threshold at which Baltimore City may submit the flag to MVA.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests that the Committee consider this information when deliberating House Bill 492.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine E. Nizer
Administrator
Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration
410-787-7830

Pilar Helm
Director of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-865-1090