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Judicial Proceedings Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 28th, 2024
The Maryland State Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
2 East Miller Senate Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Senate Bill 1067: *Baltimore County – Speed Monitoring Systems – Interstate 695*

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee,

Those who live in the Baltimore area and visit the city via the Jones Falls Expressway are by now familiar with the speed monitoring systems along the JFX. This speed monitoring system was just installed two years ago after the General Assembly passed authorizing legislation. It has accomplished exactly what it was intended to do, namely cause drivers on the JFX to slow down and drive more safely. In fact, so many drivers on the JFX have slowed down that the income produced by the speed cameras is a fraction of the original predictions.

Seven of the eight Baltimore County State Senators are sponsoring this bill to place similar speed cameras on the Baltimore County part of the Baltimore Beltway. The reason is simple. There are drivers on the Baltimore Beltway who seem determined to set world speeding records. Each of the sponsoring State Senators have had the same experience. We are driving along the Beltway at a responsible speed when a car passes us traveling at rocket-like speeds of 90 mph, 100 mph and higher. When this happens, it is shocking and scary. We cringe, convinced that we are about to witness a fatal accident up ahead. Clocking speeds like this in work zones is terrible, but driving 30 to 50 mph over the speed limit on other parts of the Beltway is nearly as dangerous.

Senators Brooks, Hettleman, Klausmeier, Salling, Sydnor and Washington join me as co-sponsors of this bill. We consist of all of the Baltimore County State Senators whose districts include a portion of the Baltimore Beltway.

Senate Bill 1067 will bring the same monitoring system to the Baltimore Beltway as currently exists on the Jones Falls Expressway. There will be up to 16 speed cameras operable, with only 4 in use at any one time. The violations enforced by this speed monitoring system will be used to fund road repairs and safety improvements on the parts of Interstate 695 within Baltimore County.

The bill has two amendments. The first adds cosponsors to the bill, and the second transfers the responsibility for installing and operating the speed camera system from the government of

Baltimore County to the Maryland State Highway Administration. Enforcement will be the responsibility of the Maryland State Police.

I appreciate the Committee's consideration of Senate Bill 1067 and will be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.