



Maryland Municipal League
The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

March 26, 2024

Committee: Senate Judicial Proceedings

Bill: HB 282 - Speed Monitoring Systems - Agencies - Statements and Certificates of Violations

Position: Favorable

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) supports House Bill 282, a narrowly tailored bill which impacts only municipalities that do not maintain a police force. It simply adds technicians to the list of individuals who may review speed camera images and sign citations sent to vehicle owners. Counties and municipalities with police departments are unaffected by this bill.

First, it is important to note that the bill does **NOT**:

- Change the locations where speed cameras are permitted.
- Increase fines.
- Alter the buffer of 12 MPH over the speed limit before an image is recorded.
- Alter the mandatory local approval process.
- Change the signage required.

The addition of trained technicians as an option for municipal governments without a police department allows for the entire speed camera process to be done in house. Currently, municipalities without a police department must find a benevolent neighboring police department to take on the review portion of the process. This can often be difficult and costly; of the 70 municipalities without a police department only two operate speed cameras.

Police officers currently receive training from the vendor on how to properly review the data included on speed camera images and how to defend those interpretations in court; technicians would receive the same training. In fact, the term “technician” is used in the red-light camera law referring to persons who may review red-light camera images, so the precedent in Maryland for civilian review of automated traffic enforcement already exists.



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Several smaller municipalities have already indicated that the provisions of HB 282 will remove a key barrier to the implementation of this proven traffic safety device in their jurisdiction. For this reason, the League respectfully requests that the committee provide House Bill 282 with a favorable report.

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