

SB1135-JPR-FAV.pdf

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SB1135

March 6, 2024

TO: Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

RE: Senate Bill 1135 – Baltimore City – Traffic Control Signal and Speed Monitoring Systems – Impoundment

POSITION: Support

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill 1135.

Senate Bill 1135 expands Baltimore City's ability to impound vehicles which have amassed over a thousand dollars in moving violations recorded by automated enforcement cameras. The legislation would be similar to Baltimore City's existing authority to impound vehicles with 3 or more active parking violations that have not been paid after 30 or more days.

Baltimore City utilizes automated traffic enforcement to promote vehicles driving at safer speeds, assisting with the prevention of crashes and injuries on our roadways. With fines capped at \$40 per automated speed violation and \$75 per automated red-light violation, a vehicle would need to amass dozens of unpaid violations before being eligible for impoundment under the proposed legislation. For example, a vehicle would need to amass over 25 unpaid automated speed violations or over 13 unpaid automated red-light violations to hit the threshold necessary for impoundment. Research conducted by the Baltimore City Department of Transportation found that there are currently 4,354 vehicles that meet the legislation's criteria, totaling over 133,049 individual violations. As of 2023, this figure represents approximately 4% of all automated traffic enforcement citations issued since 2017.

It is pertinent that we hold drivers accountable who consistently demonstrate a disregard for rules and the safety of our residents. We believe that impoundments authorized by SB 1135 would act as a strong deterrent to unsafe driving in Baltimore City and will help keep all those who use our roadways safe.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **favorable** report on SB 1135.