



Prince George's County Municipal Association

An Association of 27 Municipalities



March 25, 2024

The Honorable Col. William Smith, Jr., Chair
Judicial Proceedings Committee
Miller Senate Office Building
2 East
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Addendum: Support for HB282 - Speed Monitoring Systems - Agencies - Statements and Certificates of Violations

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceeding Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. We write on behalf of the 27 municipalities that make up the Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA), which collectively represents more than 955,000 residents, to share our support of HB282 as originally drafted.

While all municipalities would benefit from the passage of the bill in its original draft, as amended in the House it would still positively impact our municipalities without police forces. For these reasons, we submit this letter to clarify our position of Support for the passage of HB282 in either iteration.

This bill would allow the hiring and employment of technicians to review and certify speed camera citations. Currently, only a law enforcement officer may make these certifications. The process of reviewing the footage of the violations for clarity and accuracy is largely an administrative task. Expanding the criteria in staff selection and hiring to allow for a technician who does not require the same credentials as an LEO would allow municipalities to more flexibly manage their budget decision and human resources. It can also free up those law enforcement officers to focus on other tasks.

Not all municipalities have police departments. The current law requires those without police departments to contract with an agency to review traffic violations. These agencies are often the County Police Department, shifting resources from the location most impacted by the violation to the full county.

There is a recruitment and retention challenge for law enforcement agencies around the state. Municipalities with police departments would benefit from this legislation by being better able to hire for their needs, which follows job characteristics theory, a proven retention tool. Passing HB282 would allow both cities with and without a police department the opportunity to reduce costs or hire locally.

For those reasons, PGCMA respectfully requests the Committee's **support for HB282**.

Sincerely,

Melinda Mendoza

Melinda Mendoza
PGCMA President
MMendoza@ColmarManor.org