

HB 282 - MML Speed Cameras - In Senate-FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Bill Jorch

Position: FAV



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.



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

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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Theresa Kuhns
Angelica Bailey Thupari, Esq.
Bill Jorch
Justin Fiore

Chief Executive Officer
Director, Advocacy & Public Affairs
Director, Public Policy & Research
Deputy Director, Advocacy & Public Affairs

MML HB 282 - Speed Camera Technician Review.pdf

Uploaded by: Bill Jorch

Position: FAV



The Town of
GLEN ECHO
Chartered 1904

March 22, 2024

Committee: Senate Judicial Proceedings

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

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

The Town of Glen Echo supports House Bill 282 as it would provide our municipal government the option to use a technician to review speed camera images and sign the citations. As a municipality without a police department, we would consider installing speed cameras in our jurisdiction.

The cameras would enhance safety on our streets which are directly off active MacArthur Boulevard. There have been increasing congestion and speeding issues in our area. It is busy from many directions with the Glen Echo Park participants, the Irish Inn, and an adjacent to a walking and bike path accessed by many communities including Brookmont, Bannockburn, and Cabin John. We are also very close to the Clara Barton Parkway where speeding is an issue, especially late at night. We have repeatedly asked for calming measures on the Parkway; however, NPS does not have the finances to provide solutions. Lastly, traffic has increased significantly in the area from the 24-hour Intelligence Community South Campus on Sangamore Road.

Neither our town nor the smaller areas around us have their police departments. We know that our District 2 Police in Bethesda does not have enough police officers on the streets. We believe having certified technicians would be more than adequate to view footage and free up officers' time.

For these reasons, the Town of Glen Echo respectfully requests that the committee provide House Bill 282 with a favorable report.

Mayor Dia Costello

mayorcostello@glenecho.org

301-538-778

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Uploaded by: Bill Jorch

Position: FAV

John T. Carroll, Jr.
Mayor
Sarah E. Merrell
Council Member
Justinian M. Dispenza.
Council Member
Tyler J. Carpenter
Council Member
Cheryl Richwine
Council Member



Warren S. Walters
Maintenance & Facilities Coordinator
Caitlyn Smith
Town Clerk
Amber Englebach
Zoning Clerk
Audrey M. Erschen
Grants & Technology
Thomas N. Yeager
Attorney

Mayor and Council of Galena

101 S. Main Street, Galena, Maryland 21635
Telephone 410-648-5151 Fax 410-648-6937
Website: www.townofgalena.com E-mail: info@townofgalena.com

March 26, 2024

Committee: Senate Judicial Proceedings

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

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

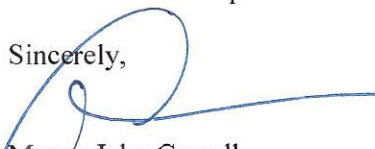
The Town of Galena supports House Bill 282 as it would provide our municipal government with the option to use a technician to review speed camera images and sign the citations. As a municipality without a police department, we would consider installing speed cameras in our jurisdiction.

The Town of Galena's 2 main thoroughfares (Main and Cross Streets) are State Routes 213 and 313, both of which are heavily trafficked by speeding tractor trailers and dump trucks avoiding toll roads along US Route 301 into neighboring Delaware. Our town is also the home of Galena Elementary School, located on State Route 313 (S. Main St.) mentioned above. The high levels of commercial truck traffic speeding through our town not only causes a quality-of-life issue, but a public safety issue for our youngest residents attending grades Pre-Kindergarten through Fifth Grade from all of Northern Kent County.

As the Town of Galena is a small rural community with just under 700 residents, we are unable to provide our own police department and therefore we contract policing services with the Kent County Sheriff's Office. While the sheriff's office provides excellent service to our residents to the best of their ability, they would not have the staffing capacity to review traffic camera footage if we were to install a traffic camera in our municipality. As well, with limited staffing, our Sheriff's Department, and the MD State Highway Patrol, cannot do constant traffic enforcement to slow our speeding truck traffic through Town. The Mayor and Council have discussed traffic calming and speeding issues many times over the last 2 decades, with which, traffic camera installations having been requested by our residents year after year, though the human capital capacity simply does not exist to institute such safety measures.

With the passage of this bill our Town, as well as many other rural small communities, would be able to ensure safe speeds are enforced and improve the quality of life of the Marylanders we represent. For these reasons the Town of Galena respectfully requests that the committee provide House Bill 282 with a favorable report.

Sincerely,


Mayor John Carroll
Town of Galena
Maryland Municipal League – Board President

SupportHB282NorthBrentwood.pdf

Uploaded by: Bill Jorch

Position: FAV



Town of North Brentwood

P.O. Box 196

North Brentwood, Maryland 20722

Office: (301) 699-9699 Fax: (301) 699-1824

March 26, 2024

Committee: Senate Judicial Proceedings

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

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

The Town of North Brentwood supports House Bill 282 as it would provide our municipal government with the option to use a technician to review speed camera images and sign the citations. As a municipality without a police department, we would install speed cameras in our jurisdiction.

Route 1 or commonly known as Rhode Island Avenue is one of the main arteries to and from Washinton, D.C. and runs through the town. This has long been a safety concern not only due to the volume of traffic, but also due to the speed of the vehicles.

As with most jurisdictions, the town has long considered speed cameras first we were not allowed since we did not meet the school requirements, now the problem has been that the town doesn't have a police department and we would need to find another municipality that would have an MOU with our town.

In the past several months since the change of the laws regarding speed cameras we have vetted several companies that offer the service, our challenge has been to find a municipality that would validate the violations at a reasonable cost to the town. The passage of HB282 would eliminate the town's need to have an MOU with another jurisdiction and it would also create a job where there currently in not one.

As has been shown in other towns where a speed camera has been placed, this would definitely change the behavior of drivers passing through our town and therefore we greatly support HB282.

For these reasons the Town of North Brentwood respectfully requests that the committee provide House Bill 282 with a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,


Petrella Robinson

Mayor

HB0282 (Senate)_FAV_City of Rockville_Speed Monito

Uploaded by: Christine Krone

Position: FAV



Testimony of the Mayor and Council of Rockville
HB 282 – Speed Monitoring Systems – Agencies – Statements and Certificates
of Violations
SUPPORT

The Rockville Mayor and Council are thankful for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB 282. We are thankful to Delegate Kerr for sponsoring this important legislation.

The Mayor and Council and the Maryland Municipal League jointly support HB 282 as a 2024 priority. This legislation provides authorization for speed camera images to be reviewed and citations signed off by a trained technician. Current law requires a sworn Police officer to sign off on speed camera violations.

HB 282 would provide several benefits for local police departments and the communities they serve:

- The legislation would enhance public safety by freeing up police officers to be deployed in the community and focused on proactive policing and crime prevention.
- In the current context of increased demand for Police services, our staff resources have been strained. HB 282 would help to relieve some of the administrative burdens placed on sworn officers.
- The legislation would standardize the process for automated traffic enforcement by using the same process that is authorized for the red-light camera program, which permits a trained technician to sign off on a violation.

HB 282 is smart public policy that would allow Police agencies to prioritize core public safety duties, advance transportation equity, and better protect the health and safety of the communities they serve. For these reasons, the City of Rockville urges the Committee to provide a favorable report for this legislation.

MML HB 282 - Speed Camera Technician Review.pdf

Uploaded by: Dia Costello

Position: FAV



The Town of
GLEN ECHO
Chartered 1904

March 22, 2024

Committee: Senate Judicial Proceedings

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

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

The Town of Glen Echo supports House Bill 282 as it would provide our municipal government the option to use a technician to review speed camera images and sign the citations. As a municipality without a police department, we would consider installing speed cameras in our jurisdiction.

The cameras would enhance safety on our streets which are directly off active MacArthur Boulevard. There have been increasing congestion and speeding issues in our area. It is busy from many directions with the Glen Echo Park participants, the Irish Inn, and an adjacent to a walking and bike path accessed by many communities including Brookmont, Bannockburn, and Cabin John. We are also very close to the Clara Barton Parkway where speeding is an issue, especially late at night. We have repeatedly asked for calming measures on the Parkway; however, NPS does not have the finances to provide solutions. Lastly, traffic has increased significantly in the area from the 24-hour Intelligence Community South Campus on Sangamore Road.

Neither our town nor the smaller areas around us have their police departments. We know that our District 2 Police in Bethesda does not have enough police officers on the streets. We believe having certified technicians would be more than adequate to view footage and free up officers' time.

For these reasons, the Town of Glen Echo respectfully requests that the committee provide House Bill 282 with a favorable report.

Mayor Dia Costello

mayorcostello@glenecho.org

301-538-778

SWA_HB282_Letter of Support_PGCMA.docx (2).pdf

Uploaded by: Johntel Greene

Position: FWA



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

**Re: Support with Amendment 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.

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 amending HB282 to its original draft.

Sincerely,

Melinda Mendoza

Melinda Mendoza
PGCMA President
MMendoza@ColmarManor.org

Updated Testimony - FAV

Uploaded by: Johntel Greene

Position: FWA



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.

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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,

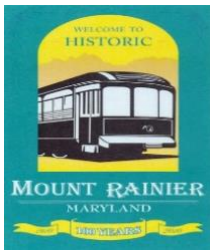
Melinda Mendoza

Melinda Mendoza
PGCMA President
MMendoza@ColmarManor.org

support of House Bill 282, with crucial amendment

Uploaded by: Mayor Celina Benitez

Position: FWA



Office of The Mayor Celina Benitez

1 Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, Maryland 20712 Telephone: (301) 985-6585 MountRainierMD.org

March 25, 2024

Dear Honorable Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I am Mayor Celina Benitez of the City of Mount Rainier, and I write in support of House Bill 282, with **crucial amendment** that would significantly impact our community.

Mount Rainier supports the bill's intention to enhance traffic safety as we continue to work towards a walkable, bikeable city in which our residents feel safe from potential traffic related accidents. The City of Mount Rainier also has invested in making our city safe with Zero vision Plan that we are working on executing. However, the current limitation in the bill to municipal corporations with a police force restricts our ability to utilize these essential tools effectively. Our city, although equipped with a dedicated police force, faces significant challenges as many others in traffic enforcement due to police shortages and budget constraints necessitating a focused allocation of our limited law enforcement resources.

Therefore, **we propose amendments to HB 282 to allow municipalities with police forces to also utilize technicians employed by an agency for the signing of statements alleging violations recorded by speed monitoring systems.** This change will enable us to manage these systems more efficiently, ensuring timely processing without diverting critical police resources from addressing urgent community safety concerns.

Amending HB 282 to include municipalities with police forces in the provisions for speed monitoring system management acknowledges the diverse challenges faced by Maryland's towns and cities. It provides a flexible and effective tool for enhancing traffic safety and compliance, thereby supporting our broader efforts to protect and serve our residents.

The City of Mount Rainier urges the committee to consider these amendments favorably. By doing so, you will empower municipalities, regardless of their policing capabilities, to utilize modern technologies in our shared quest for safer roads and communities. We are committed to working alongside our state partners to implement solutions that respect our unique circumstances while advancing our collective public safety goals. Please feel free to contact me at 301-985-6585 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Celina Benitez

Mayor Celina Benitez, City of Mount Rainier