

flock safety

TO: The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chair
Members, House Judiciary Committee
The Honorable Charles E. Sydnor, III

FROM: Andrew G. Vetter
J. Steven Wise

DATE: April 1, 2024

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 840 – *Public Safety – Automatic License Plate Readers – Captured Plate Data Storage and Upload*

On behalf of Flock Safety, we are pleased to submit this letter of **support** for Senate Bill 840. Founded in 2017, Flock Safety is a leading provider of automatic license plate readers (ALPR) technology, helping over 4,000 communities across the United States improve community safety. ALPRs have proven to be one of the most effective crime-fighting tools currently used by law enforcement. A recent study has found that Flock Safety is instrumental in solving 10% of reported crime in the United States.¹

Senate Bill 840 accomplishes two primary objectives. First, the bill is enabling legislation that would permit providers of ALPR devices that use cloud data storage to operate in Maryland and interface with the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center (MCAC) of the Maryland State Police (MSP). Second, the bill strengthens the existing ALPR statute with several key privacy and security protections.

Both Senate Bill 840 and the cross-file, House Bill 1081, have been amended. Flock Safety supports the amendments that have been added to each bill but note that there are some slight differences. Our understanding is that the current form of House Bill 1081 has been amended to more accurately align with MCAC policies and auditing requirements, and, therefore, Flock Safety would support amending Senate Bill 840 to be consistent with the House Bill.

Passage of this bill will bring numerous benefits to Maryland residents. Public safety will be increased through providing law enforcement with more choice and flexibility. Existing law will be aligned with modern technology through enabling the use of cloud storage. Money can be saved through decreased reliance on costly physical servers. The additional privacy and security protections benefit all Marylanders. For these reasons, we urge a **favorable** report of this bill.

¹ [How Many Crimes Do Automated License Plate Readers \(ALPRs\) Solve, Anyway? \(flocksafety.com\)](https://flocksafety.com)

