

Emily Tarsell, LCPC

---

2314 Benson Mill Road  
Sparks, Maryland 21152

**Oppose SB840**

**March 29, 2024**

Dear Chair and Members of the House Judiciary Committee.

As a law abiding Maryland citizen, I have no argument with using an automatic license plate reader to track criminals. However the problem with this bill is that it would track ALL license plates, not just those of targeted concern. As noted in an article regarding auto license capture in New York State:

*“That’s a lot of information to collect about innocent people. As an example, the Rhinebeck Police Department reported reading 164,043 plates between April and June of 2011, only eight of which were license plates of interest – a 99.99 percent failure rate.” [1]*

The breath of the capture also presents a problem with securing and storing the privacy of the data which becomes more voluminous when tracking ALL vehicles, not just those of interest. This bill is too broad in allowing tracking of all vehicles. It is also too broad in that it seeks to coordinate the information with the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center, which deals not just with law enforcement issues, but also public health. This system might therefore conceivably be used in the future to track citizen compliance with a public health mandate whether or not justified. That is a bridge too far.

The bill does not sufficiently limit the surveillance to criminal behavior and does not sufficiently guarantee privacy protection. **Please vote unfavorable for SB 840.**

Thanks you.  
Emily Tarsell

[1] <https://www.nyclu.org/en/automatic-license-plate-readers>