



## **House Bill 644**

### *Vehicle Laws – Speed Monitoring Systems – Residential Districts*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Environment and Transportation  
Committee

Date: February 21, 2025

From: Sarah Sample

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 644. This bill authorizes statewide use of speed monitoring devices in residential districts under certain circumstances and only when enabled by a local ordinance. These changes could help promote safety and deter aggressive, reckless, and negligent driving, particularly in areas with families and children.

More frequently than ever, horrific traffic accidents have claimed the lives or good health of Maryland residents. Vehicle drivers and passengers aren't the only ones in danger – pedestrians and cyclists alongside the roadways are also at risk of harm or death. In the instance outlined in HB 644, potential pedestrian victims are often children playing and people simply trying to enjoy the day-to-day activities in their neighborhoods.

Research has shown that penalties for speeding have the potential to change behavior and drive down the number of violations over time. Counties believe having the authority to use automated enforcement for speeding in residential areas will further accountability, particularly in these sensitive locations. When deployed in a targeted way, these systems can and will save lives.

Not only does HB 644 hold reckless drivers accountable for behaviors that have led to a surge in the frequency and severity of incidents that are regularly putting residents and county employees at risk, but it sets a new standard of safety in communities for all residents. For these reasons, MACo **SUPPORTS** HB 644.