

February 20, 2025

The Honorable Marc Korman  
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee  
251 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

***RE: Letter of Information – House Bill 1139 – Motor Vehicles - Intelligent Speed Assistance System Pilot Program - Establishment***

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 1139 and offers the following information for the Committee's consideration.

HB 1139 would require the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to create a pilot program requiring the installation of intelligent speed assistance systems in certain vehicles operated by individuals otherwise subject to a suspension of their driving privileges for points accumulations for certain violations where speed is or could be a factor.<sup>1</sup>

Speeding is a leading factor in traffic fatalities and injuries, contributing to approximately one-third of all motor vehicle deaths. Implementing an Intelligent Speed Assist (ISA) program would play a pivotal role in enhancing road safety by limiting the vehicle speeds of high-risk drivers to appropriate levels. In 2024, Maryland police agencies issued over 68,000 speeding citations. Between 2020 and 2023, 7,800 drivers received three or more speeding citations from law enforcement officers. HB 1139 would currently apply to 642 drivers in the State of Maryland.

ISA utilizes advanced GPS satellite technology to monitor a vehicle's speed in real-time. It actively prevents the vehicle from exceeding specified speed limits by controlling the accelerator pedal through a direct connection with the vehicle's systems, ensuring compliance with speed regulations. By limiting the vehicle's speed, ISA can help minimize erratic driving behavior, which improves overall traffic flow and reduces bottlenecks caused by sudden speed changes. Additionally, the system can be configured with an emergency override feature, allowing the vehicle to temporarily exceed the speed limit in specific situations, such as when a driver must accelerate quickly for safety reasons or to avoid danger.

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<sup>1</sup> Specifically, these include: Transportation, §§ 16-402(a)(3) (Speeding in excess of the posted speed limit by 10 miles per hour or more); 16-402(a)(17) (Speeding in excess of the posted speed limit by 30 miles per hour or more); 16-402(a)(24) (Speeding in excess of a posted speed limit of 65 miles per hour by 20 miles per hour or more); 16-402(a)(27) (Reckless driving); 16-402(a)(33) (Participating in a race or speed contest on a highway); and 16-402(a)(45) (Participating in a race or speed contest on a highway resulting in serious bodily injury, as defined in Transportation, § 20-102(c), to another person).

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At present, the State of Maryland has not utilized ISA technology nor regulated the use of ISA devices. There are no corresponding federal standards for ISA programs or devices; therefore, the MVA would need to draft its own standards. While the MVA has conducted preliminary discussions with national service providers and anticipates that program management will have similarities to the ignition interlock program, it is not yet clear whether the service providers' reporting requirements will provide sufficient information to refuse, revoke, suspend or cancel an individual's driver's license. The MVA has concerns that the current effective date does not provide sufficient time to perform its due diligence, collaborate with stakeholders, and complete regulatory promulgation by October 1, 2025.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests that the Committee consider this information when deliberating House Bill 1139.

Respectfully submitted,

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