



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

TESTIMONY

February 21, 2025

Committee: House Environment and Transportation Committee

Bill: HB 343 - Motor Vehicles - Speed Monitoring Systems - Statements and Certificates of Violations

Position: Favorable

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) supports House Bill 343 which will promote roadway safety by improving the efficiency and efficacy of local speed camera programs. The bill adds technicians to the list of individuals who may review speed camera images and sign citations and clarifies that citations signed by technicians are admissible in court. HB 343 also sets a training floor which currently does not exist. The bill does not require that a local government use a technician for speed camera image review, a police officer is still authorized to do so.

Adding trained technicians as an option for municipal governments to use for back-end review of speed camera images helps in two primary ways:

1. For municipalities without a police department, this change 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; only three municipalities without a police department operate speed cameras.
2. For municipalities with a police department, this change provides an option to relieve officers of the administrative task of reviewing speed camera images, acting as a force multiplier. The technician would remain an employee of the police department but their role would allow the officers to resume more typical public safety duties.

Currently there are civilians involved in other critical aspects of a properly functioning speed camera program such as completing daily set-up logs, answering questions from the public, reviewing contested citations, defending a violation in court, and overseeing the vendor contract.



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Police officers receive training on how to properly read speed camera images and the data contained on each and technicians would receive the same training. In fact, technicians have been authorized to review red-light camera images since 1997.

In 2009, the General Assembly first authorized state-wide use of speed cameras and provided significant revisions in 2014. Some opponents of the bill refer to the original intent of the speed camera program, but it has been 15 years since they were first authorized and it is time to ask whether more changes are needed.

For these reasons, the Maryland Municipal League respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 343. For more information, please contact Bill Jorch, Director, Public Policy and Research at billj@mdmunicipal.org. Thank you for your consideration.

The Maryland Municipal League uses its collective voice to advocate, empower and protect the interests of our 160 local governments members and elevates local leadership, delivers impactful solutions for our communities, and builds an inclusive culture for the 2 million Marylanders we serve.