

VAUGHN STEWART
Legislative District 19
Montgomery County

CHIEF DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Environment and Transportation
Committee

Subcommittees

Land Use and Ethics

Chair, Motor Vehicle and
Transportation



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 151
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3528 · 301-858-3528
800-492-7122 Ext. 3528
Vaughn.Stewart@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of HB 182
Motor Vehicles - Speed Monitoring Systems - Penalties
Testimony by Delegate Vaughn Stewart
February 21, 2025 | Environment and Transportation Committee

What the Bill Does

HB 182 aims to better reflect the severity of speeding violations and encourage safer driving behavior by introducing a tiered penalty system for citations issued by an automated speed enforcement system. Previously, all violations captured by speed cameras resulted in a flat \$40 fine. This bill introduces a tiered penalty system based on the degree to which a driver exceeds the speed limit:

- 12–15 mph over the limit: \$40 fine
- 16–19 mph over the limit: \$55 fine
- 20–29 mph over the limit: \$95 fine
- 30–39 mph over the limit: \$180 fine
- 40+ mph over the limit: \$350 fine

If enacted, these changes will take effect on October 1, 2025.

Why the Bill is Important

Speed cameras in Maryland are placed in areas where speeding poses the greatest risk to vulnerable road users (VRUs), including pedestrians and cyclists. These locations include school zones across the state. Excessive speeding in these areas creates life-threatening conditions, particularly for those who lack the protection of a vehicle. Despite the presence of speed cameras, the current flat \$40 fine fails to provide an adequate deterrent, allowing reckless drivers to continue putting lives at risk with little consequence.

Maryland already acknowledges the increased dangers of speeding in work zones by enforcing graduated fines for speed camera violations, where penalties rise based on the severity of the offense. This system reflects the reality that speeding in high-risk areas requires stricter consequences to protect those most vulnerable. The same logic should apply to school zones and

dangerous roadways, where children, pedestrians, and cyclists face similar risks. A tiered penalty system for all speed camera violations would create a stronger deterrent effect, ensuring drivers take greater caution in these high-risk areas.

The dangers of unchecked speeding are evident on Belair Road in northeast Baltimore, where three pedestrians were killed in November alone. Residents report persistent reckless driving, speeding, and even street racing, especially at night. In December, speed cameras were installed near The Green School of Baltimore and The Belair-Edison School to improve safety. While this is a step in the right direction, a flat \$40 fine is unlikely to be a lasting deterrent. Community members fear that local children crossing the street will continue to be at risk. A graduated fine structure would ensure that reckless speeding is met with meaningful penalties, reinforcing safe driving behavior and better protecting pedestrians—especially children—both in Baltimore and across the state.

Maryland Route 210, commonly known as the “Highway of Death,” is another example of why stronger penalties are necessary. Since 2007, 91 people have died on this road, with 10 fatalities occurring in 2022 alone. From August to October 2023, speed cameras recorded 204 drivers exceeding 100 mph, with the most egregious offender reaching 170 mph. Under current law, if a driver were pulled over by police for exceeding the speed limit by 40 mph or more, they would face a \$530 fine and five points on their license. Yet, if caught by a speed camera, the same offense results in a mere \$40 fine and no points—a glaring inconsistency that grossly undermines traffic safety. This disparity fails to deter extreme speeding and creates dangerous conditions for other drivers and VRUs who rely on this road during their commutes.

Why the Committee Should Vote Favorably

A graduated fine structure for speed camera violations is not just about penalizing drivers—it is about preventing injuries and saving lives. By aligning penalties with the severity of the offense, Maryland can hold reckless drivers accountable, deter dangerous speeding, and protect the most vulnerable road users.

Now is the time to act—I urge a favorable report on this bill to take a critical step toward making Maryland’s roads safer for everyone.