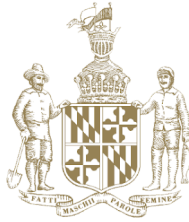


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Montgomery County

Environment and Transportation
Committee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
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Testimony: HB915 - Motor Vehicles - Out-of-State Drivers - Enforcement (Out-of-State Driver Accountability Act)

Committee: Environment and Transportation Committee

Hearing Date: February 20, 2025

Position: Favorable

Good afternoon Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee. For the record, I am Delegate Linda Foley and am presenting HB915 - Motor Vehicles - Out-of-State Drivers - Enforcement (Out-of-State Driver Accountability Act).

This piece of legislation is modeled after a part of the DC STEER Act, which passed the DC Council in 2024. While the DC STEER Act has a broader mandate, the bill before our committee focuses on the ability of the Attorney General or State's Attorney to be able to take action against a driver or vehicle with specific unpaid motor vehicle violations.

In a June 2023 report by WBAL-TV, they investigated how many out-of-state drivers are not paying their speeding tickets from speed cameras on I-83 here in Maryland. Data from the Baltimore City Department of Transportation indicated that 43% of out-of-state drivers did not pay their ticket, yet there are no tools for the State to go after these drivers.

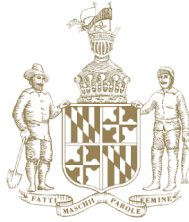
To give a sense of the sheer number of tickets we are talking about -- between July 13, 2022 to March 31, 2023 around 237,000 speeding tickets were issued on I-83 alone, according to the WBAL-TV study. Of these, 51,000 were for out-of-state drivers with more than 22,000 remaining unpaid at the time of the investigation.

Currently, our State does not enable uniform collection of data, meaning data is kept in over 100 local jurisdictions across our state. This makes it hard to determine how many unpaid tickets from automated enforcement cameras exist at any given point. That is why we are considering an amendment to increase reporting for both in-state and out-of-state violations.

HB915 addresses this by enabling the Attorney General or State's Attorney to bring civil action against unpaid or overdue citations, specifically for DC residents and registered vehicles. It's important to note that no case can be brought if the ticket is being contested, is not past the due date, has been paid, or if the ticket is being paid on an installment plan.

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This bill also requires each county and municipality to submit a quarterly report that includes information regarding the citations to all out-of-state drivers to see if they are paid or past the due date. It is our understanding that the Maryland Municipal League is Favorable with Amendments, with one of their amendments being that if a local jurisdiction is not going after any unpaid ticket -- in other words they have nothing to report for a specific quarter -- then the jurisdictions don't need to submit a report for that quarter. I am okay with this amendment.

Committee colleagues, HB915 is a reciprocal bill, one that puts our State on the same rules for collection of out of state drivers with DC. It provides our local officials with the tools and resources to ensure our roads are safer while receiving the appropriate revenue from traffic camera violations. For these reasons, I urge a favorable report on HB915.