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Committee

Subcommittees

Housing & Real Property

Chair, Motor Vehicle and
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of HB 343
Motor Vehicles - Speed Monitoring Systems -
Statements and Certificates of Violations

Testimony by Delegate Vaughn Stewart
February 18, 2025 | Environment & Transportation Committee

What the Bill Does:

In Maryland, speed camera citations can only be reviewed and certified by a sworn police officer. This policy, however, is costly to many jurisdictions - especially small and rural communities - and places an undue burden on law enforcement resources and budgets. HB 343 would alter this requirement to allow speed camera citations to be reviewed by a trained technician.

Why the Bill is Important:

Maryland partly relies on speed cameras to improve traffic safety, reduce accidents, and enforce speed limits in high-risk areas such as school zones. Under current law, only police officers are authorized to review and certify citations, placing unnecessary burdens on law enforcement personnel and limiting the efficiency of the program.

Jurisdictions often have to pay police officers overtime to review citations - in some, like the City of Baltimore, the amount of money collected in speed camera fines totals the cost of overtime paid to officers for reviewing those citations. By tying up officers in the service of tasks which can easily and straightforwardly be performed by a trained civilian, the policy also diverts important law enforcement resources from their role in ensuring public safety and responding to emergencies in the community.

Expanding certification authority to trained staff ensures that law enforcement resources and officers can focus on more pressing public safety duties rather than administrative reviews. The addition of minimum training standards also guarantees that individuals reviewing citations are held to rigorous and transparent standards, preventing potential errors or inconsistencies in enforcement.

Why the Committee Should Vote Favorably:

HB 343 is a simple, common-sense fix that will ensure the continued effectiveness of Maryland's speed camera program while freeing up law enforcement resources to be used where they are most needed, in keeping local communities across Maryland safe. **I urge a favorable report.**