



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Marc Korman, Chair and
Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Darren Popkin, Executive Director, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Samira Jackson, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: February 21, 2025

RE: **HB 644 Vehicle Laws - Speed Monitoring Systems - Residential Districts**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT HB 644**. This bill would authorize speed monitoring systems ("speed cameras") on highways in residential districts with a maximum posted speed limit of 35 miles per hour statewide, instead of current law that only authorizes residential speed cameras in Anne Arundel County, Montgomery County, and Prince George's County.

Under HB 644, speed cameras will be allowed to be used in specified residential area locations, outside of current law which limits these cameras to school zones. The installation of these speed cameras will have a positive effect state-wide as it aims to negate negative and dangerous driving behaviors. Speed is a huge factor in the damage sustained in vehicle crashes. These cameras tend to slow vehicles down significantly, which will lead to a reduction in crashes and motor vehicle incidents. These speed cameras also serve to enhance safety in residential neighborhoods, where citizens are typically walking, riding bikes, and spending time outside with their families and/or pets.

The enactment of HB 644 allows police departments throughout the state to add speed cameras to encourage motorists to slow down in residential areas, where speeding is a problem. Additionally, the use of automated enforcement with speed cameras reduces the risks that are inherent during police traffic stops. Speed cameras have been an effective tool used to improve public safety by reducing speed-related vehicle crashes in residential areas.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT HB 644** and urge a **FAVORABLE** committee report.