

# **MCPA-MSA HB 343-Speed Monitoring Systems-Statement**

Uploaded by: Andrea Mansfield

Position: FAV



# 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 343 Motor Vehicles – Speed Monitoring Systems – Statements and Certificates of Violations**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT HB 343**. This bill allows for certified technicians, along with already authorized law enforcement, to inspect recorded images produced by speed cameras and swear to and affirm the recorded violation's accuracy.

Under current law, only law enforcement officers are authorized to review speed camera images and sign citations. This is a timely process and requires law enforcement officers to perform administrative duties instead of being present in the field and available to respond to urgent emergencies. HB 343 seeks to find a balance of these duties by allowing authorized technicians, who complete the same reasonable training as law enforcement, to review these images and recordings and sign citations. Given the difficult state of officer recruitment and retention in the state of Maryland, law enforcement needs as many available officers as possible, and this bill can and will assist with that problem.

Additionally, civilian technicians have been permitted to review red light camera images and sign citations since 1997. This has proven to be very effective and HB 343 will create these same efficiencies.

Speed cameras are a proven tool to reduce speeding and decrease traffic related injuries. This bill will improve the efficiency of these critical traffic safety programs, create less administrative work for law enforcement officers, and allow law enforcement officers to use their time and resources in the field as needed.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT HB 343** and urge a **FAVORABLE** committee report.

# **HB 343 - MML - FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Bill Jorch

Position: FAV



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.



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

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](mailto: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.*

**HB 343, FAV, FCG, OCE, LS25.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jessica Fitzwater

Position: FAV



**FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT**  
**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

Jessica Fitzwater  
*County Executive*

**HB 343 – Motor Vehicles – Speed Monitoring Systems – Statements and Certificates of Violations**

**DATE:** February 21, 2025  
**COMMITTEE:** House Environment and Transportation Committee  
**POSITION:** Favorable  
**FROM:** The Office of Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

As the County Executive of Frederick County, I urge the committee to give **HB 343 – Speed Monitoring Systems – Statements and Certificates of Violations** a favorable report.

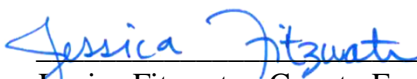
This bill would allow local jurisdictions and municipalities to streamline the use of speed monitoring systems by permitting trained municipal personnel—along with law enforcement officers—to approve or deny speed camera citations.

Speeding through busy roads and pedestrian areas is a serious safety concern in many municipalities. Speed cameras have been proven to influence driver behavior, reducing vehicle speeds and improving safety for both pedestrians and drivers. Unfortunately, because of the current state requirement for all speed camera citations to be reviewed by a law enforcement officer, not all municipalities have access to this essential safety tool.

Currently, trained municipal personnel are allowed to approve or deny red-light and work zone speed camera citations. By expanding this authority to include speed cameras, all municipalities—including the nine in Frederick County without their own police force—will be able to implement speed cameras to enhance safety. This change would also ease the workload of county law enforcement agencies who currently handle the review of these citations.

I support this bill because it will help municipalities in Frederick County address the safety concerns of their residents more effectively, while reducing the burden on the Frederick County Sheriff's Office.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 343. I urge you to advance this bill with a favorable report.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jessica Fitzwater, County Executive  
Frederick County, MD

# **PGCMA Support for HB343 - Speed Monitoring Systems**

Uploaded by: Johntel Greene

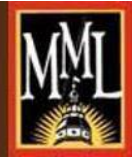
Position: FAV





# Prince George's County Municipal Association

*An Association of 27 Municipalities*



The Honorable Marc Korman, Chair  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
February 21, 2025

**Re: Support for HB343 - Speed Monitoring Systems - Agencies - Statements and Certificates of Violations**

Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and members of the Environmental and Transportation Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. We write on behalf of the 27 municipalities that make up the Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA), which collectively represents more than 955,000 residents, to share our **support of House Bill 343- Speed Monitoring Systems - Agencies - Statements and Certificates of Violations**

HB343 would allow the hiring and employment of technicians to review and certify speed camera citations. Currently, only a law enforcement officer may make these certifications. The process of reviewing the footage of the violations for clarity and accuracy is largely an administrative task. Expanding the criteria in staff selection and hiring to allow for a technician who does not require the same credentials as an LEO would allow municipalities to more flexibly manage their budget decision and human resources. It can also free up those law enforcement officers to focus on other tasks.

Not all municipalities have police departments, HB343 will aid in being able to access the tools to help keep their community safe. The current law requires those without police departments to contract with an agency to review traffic violations which limits the ability of municipalities to be able to utilize all the tools available to keep their community. These agencies are often the County Police Department, shifting resources from the location most impacted by the violation to the full county.

There is a recruitment and retention challenge for law enforcement agencies around the state and at a national level. Municipalities with police departments would benefit from this legislation by being better able to hire for their needs, which follows job characteristics theory, a proven retention tool. Passing HB343 would allow Municipalities with and without a police department the opportunity to reduce costs that is essential during the current financial climate, while at the same time keeping their community safe.

**Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA) urges the committee to provide a Favorable Report on House Bill 343.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Celina R. Benitez".

Mayor Celina R. Benitez, City of Mount Rainier

President, Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA)

Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA) members: Berwyn Heights, Bladensburg, Bowie, Brentwood, Capitol Heights, Cheverly, College Park, Colmar Manor, Cottage City, District Heights, Eagle Harbor, Edmonston, Fairmount Heights, Forest Heights, Glenarden, Greenbelt, Hyattsville, Landover Hills, Laurel, Morningside, Mount Rainier, New Carrollton, North Brentwood, Riverdale Park, Seat Pleasant, University Park, and Upper Marlboro.

# **HB0343\_FAV\_City of Rockville\_Motor Veh. - Speed Mo**

Uploaded by: Marissa Valeri

Position: FAV



**Testimony of the Mayor and Council of Rockville**  
**HB 343 – Motor Vehicles – Speed Monitoring Systems – Statements and**  
**Certificates of Violations**  
**SUPPORT**

Good afternoon, Chair Korman and members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee. I am Rockville City Councilmember Marissa Valeri. On behalf of the Mayor and Council, I want to thank Delegate Stewart for sponsoring this important legislation.

The Mayor and Council and the Maryland Municipal League jointly support HB 343 as a 2025 priority. This legislation provides authorization for speed camera images to be reviewed, and citations signed off by a trained technician if they receive training specific to the speed monitoring system before certifying any certificates of violation. Current law requires a sworn Police officer to sign off on speed camera violations.

HB 343 would provide several benefits for local police departments and the communities they serve:

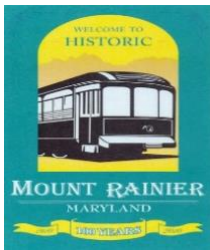
- The legislation would enhance public safety by freeing up police officers to be deployed in the community and focused on proactive policing and crime prevention.
- In the current context of increased demand for Police services, our staff resources have been strained. HB 343 would help to relieve some of the administrative burdens placed on sworn officers.
- The legislation would standardize the process for automated traffic enforcement by using the same process that is authorized for the red-light camera program, which permits a trained technician to sign off on a violation.

HB 343 is smart public policy that would allow Police agencies to prioritize core public safety duties, advance transportation equity, and better protect the health and safety of the communities they serve. For these reasons, the City of Rockville urges the Committee to provide HB 343 with a favorable report. Thank you.

# **MR Support for House Bill 343 – Motor Vehicles - S**

Uploaded by: Mayor Celina Benitez

Position: FAV



## Office of The Mayor Celina Benitez

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1 Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, Maryland 20712 Telephone: (301) 985-6585 MountRainierMD.org

Environment and Transportation Committee

**RE: Support for House Bill 343 – Motor Vehicles - Speed Monitoring Systems - Statements and Certificates of Violations**

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

My name is Celina Benitez, and I am the Mayor of the City of Mount Rainier. On behalf of our community, I am pleased to express our strong support for House Bill 343 **Motor Vehicles - Speed Monitoring Systems - Statements and Certificates of Violations**, introduced by Delegate Stewart.

The City of Mount Rainier is committed to ensuring the safety of our roads and protecting pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists alike. We have focus on making our city that is walkable, bikeable and safe for our community and for those reasons we need tools to be able to help our police department.

Speed monitoring systems play a crucial role in traffic enforcement and deterrence, particularly in our residential areas and school zones. HB 343 enhances the efficiency of this system by allowing qualified technicians to assist in the verification process, ensuring timely and accurate enforcement while easing administrative burdens on law enforcement personnel as well as on our very limited budget.

By permitting trained technicians to certify violations, this bill aligns with best practices already in place for speed enforcement. It promotes operational efficiency without compromising the integrity of the citation process. Furthermore, HB 343 provides necessary flexibility for municipalities like Mount Rainier, where law enforcement resources are often stretched thin.

For these reasons, we urge a **Favorable Report on HB 343**.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important legislation. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

*Celina R. Benitez*

Mayor Celina R. Benitez, City of Mount Rainier

**HB343-ET-FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Nina Themelis

Position: FAV



**BRANDON M. SCOTT**  
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations  
88 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

**HB 0343**

February 21, 2025

**TO:** Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

**FROM:** Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

**RE:** House Bill HB 0343 – Speed Monitoring Systems – Statements and Certificates of Violations

**POSITION: FAVORABLE**

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 343.

HB 343 enhances the efficiency and reliability of speed monitoring enforcement by authorizing trained technicians, in addition to law enforcement officers, to review and certify speed monitoring system violations. Additionally, the bill establishes a reasonable training requirement for both law enforcement officers and technicians before they can certify violation certificates.

This legislation strengthens the integrity of automated speed enforcement by ensuring that those responsible for reviewing and certifying violations have received proper training. By allowing qualified technicians to perform this role, HB 343 alleviates the administrative burden on law enforcement agencies, enabling officers to focus on other critical public safety duties while maintaining the effectiveness of speed monitoring systems.

Currently, Baltimore City's photo enforcement citation undergo through three layers of verification prior to final issuance. They are first reviewed by the camera contractor, before proceeding to quality assurance analysts within the Baltimore City Department of Transportation. It is only after these steps are complete that citations are reviewed and certified by the Baltimore Police Department. These redundant steps are in place to ensure the quality and integrity of the program. As a result, we do not estimate any additional costs associated with processing citations with reduced Police involvement.

	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026	Fiscal 2027	Fiscal 2028	Fiscal 2029
Estimated Technician Costs <i>Includes Salary, Overtime, and OPCs</i>	\$788,451	\$812,104	\$836,467	\$861,561	\$887,408
Estimated Savings Realized (BPD OT) <i>Related to reduction of BPD Overtime for review</i>	(\$1,344,796)	(\$1,398,588)	(\$1,454,531)	(\$1,512,712)	(\$1,573,221)
<b>Net (Savings Realized)</b>	<b>(\$556,345)</b>	<b>(\$586,484)</b>	<b>(\$618,064)</b>	<b>(\$651,151)</b>	<b>(\$685,813)</b>

In Fiscal year 2023, sworn police officer overtime expenses relating to the review of traffic camera violations amounted to \$1.57 million. On average, the Baltimore Police Department uses 1,497 of overtime hours per month with an average overtime rate of \$74.90/hour.

Contingent on the passage of SB 500/HB 913, the City plans to add two additional speed cameras to Interstate 83; we estimate this would require the hiring of one additional quality assurance analyst by the Department of Transportation.

Speed monitoring systems have proven to be an essential tool in reducing speeding and improving roadway safety. The procedural improvements introduced in HB 343 ensure that the review and certification process remain precise, efficient, and transparent, maintaining public confidence in automated enforcement.

For the above stated reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **favorable** report on HB 343.



# **HB0343 - TSO OPPD - LOS - Motor Vehicles - Speed M**

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: FAV



Wes Moore  
Governor  
Aruna Miller  
Lieutenant Governor  
Paul J. Wiedefeld  
Secretary

February 21, 2025

The Honorable Marc Korman  
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee  
250 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

***RE: Letter of Support – House Bill 343 – Motor Vehicles – Speed Monitoring Systems – Statements and Certificates of Violations***

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) supports House Bill 343 as an important reform to support the continued successful deployment of speed monitoring system programs that reduce speeds and save lives.

HB 343 permits a technician to sign a speed monitoring system citation in lieu of a law enforcement officer. The legislation also requires a law enforcement officer or technician who signs the citations to complete a reasonable training specific to the speed monitoring system before certifying any certifications of violation.

MDOT is strongly committed to the Vision Zero goals that the General Assembly has endorsed and sees appropriate use of speed monitoring systems as a critical tool in making sure that excessive speeding and unsafe driver behaviors are addressed on Maryland's roads. MDOT also understands that a successful statewide program should both be implementable and build trust.

This legislation achieves those goals by giving local jurisdictions flexibility in their staffing approach to signing citations and by making sure that all responsible signers, officers or technicians, are appropriately trained in the critical role that they play in responsibly administering this program to improve safety on Maryland's roads.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee grant House Bill 343 a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe McAndrew  
Assistant Secretary, Planning and Project  
Development  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
410-865-1006

Matthew Mickler  
Director of Government Affairs  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
410-865-1090

**HB0343-ET\_MACo\_SUP.pdf**

Uploaded by: Sarah Sample

Position: FAV



## House Bill 343

### *Motor Vehicles - Speed Monitoring Systems - Statements and Certificates of Violations*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Environment and Transportation  
Committee

Date: February 21, 2025

From: Sarah Sample

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 343. This bill would allow county law enforcement agencies to add, as they see fit, a trained technician to the pool of employees who are able to sign the statement alleging a violation as evidenced by a speed monitoring system.

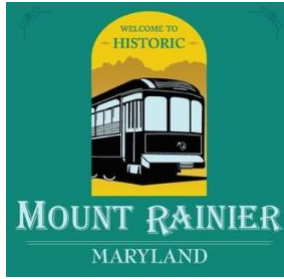
This bill gives law enforcement agencies the flexibility to have a sworn officer or a trained employee sign speed camera violation statements. This authority is already granted to local agencies when reviewing red light camera and school bus camera citations. In those circumstances, the ability to dedicate employees, sworn or otherwise, to tasks according to specific skill sets, time constraints, and need has improved efficiency. Additionally, vacancy issues within the public safety workforce are contributing to dangerously low numbers of officers available in the community. Civilian employees, with the necessary expertise to sign these statements, will leave more officers in the community at a time when all jurisdictions are experiencing precarious staffing shortfalls in public safety.

HB 343 would authorize law enforcement agencies to delegate tasks thoughtfully and effectively, enhancing workforce utility across the entire agency. For this reason, MACo **SUPPORTS** HB 343 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report.

# **Mount\_Rainier\_Testimony in Support of House Bill 3**

Uploaded by: Tony Jones

Position: FAV



## **Testimony in Support of House Bill 343**

### **Motor Vehicles – Speed Monitoring System - Statements and Certificates of Violations**

#### **Environment and Transportation Committee**

Submitted by Chief Linwood C. Alston, City of Mount Rainier Police Department

Date: February 21, 2025

Good afternoon, Chairman Korman, and members of the Committee,

I am Chief Linwood Alston of the City of Mount Rainier Police Department, and I submit this testimony in strong support of House Bill 343. This legislation is a critical step toward enhancing the efficiency, integrity, and effectiveness of speed monitoring systems in Maryland, ultimately contributing to public safety on our roadways.

Speeding remains one of the leading causes of traffic collisions, injuries, and fatalities across the state, including in the City of Mount Rainier. Automated speed enforcement has proven to be an essential tool in our efforts to curb excessive speeding, protect pedestrians, and ensure safer streets for our residents and visitors. However, the current process of certifying speed monitoring violations can be administratively burdensome and inefficient, particularly for law enforcement agencies managing high volumes of violations while also prioritizing crime prevention and public safety operations.

House Bill 343 provides a pragmatic solution by allowing trained technicians to swear to and affirm speed monitoring violations based on recorded images. By requiring reasonable training specific to speed monitoring systems, this bill ensures that the certification process remains rigorous, accurate, and reliable while allowing law enforcement officers to allocate their time and resources more effectively.

Importantly, this legislation does not diminish law enforcement oversight; rather, it strengthens the reliability of speed monitoring enforcement by ensuring that both officers and technicians possess the necessary expertise to validate violations.

By streamlining the violation certification process and ensuring proper training for those responsible for reviewing citations, this bill will reinforce public confidence in the integrity of the system while enhancing our ability to maintain safe roadways.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on House Bill 343. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Chief Linwood Alston

City of Mount Rainier Police Department

**HB 343 FAV Del Stewart.pdf**

Uploaded by: Vaughn Stewart

Position: FAV



VAUGHN STEWART  
Legislative District 19  
Montgomery County

CHIEF DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Environment and Transportation  
Committee

*Subcommittees*

Housing & Real Property

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 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.**