



## OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**Marc Elrich**  
*County Executive*

February 13, 2025

TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.  
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Marc Elrich  
County Executive

RE: Senate Bill 613, *Montgomery County and Prince George's County - Distracted Driving Monitoring System Pilot Program*

Support

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I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 613, *Montgomery County and Prince George's County - Distracted Driving Monitoring System Pilot Program*. The legislation would allow Montgomery and Prince George's Counties to pilot an automated enforcement system to detect distracted driving. The bill specifies prohibited use of a handheld cell phone while operating a vehicle as distracted driving but maintains existing exclusions for the use of a cellphone while driving to contact global positioning systems (GPS) or text messaging to a 9-1-1 system. Under the bill, a person liable for a violation would be subject to a civil fine not exceeding \$40 to be paid directly or appealed to the District Court.

Distracted driving is a risk to public safety on our roadways. It diverts a driver's attention, and in a matter of seconds, can reduce a driver's response time to traffic conditions. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported that more than 32,000 people died in crashes involving distracted driving between 2013 and 2022. That includes any activity that takes a driver's attention away from the road, and it is an alarming statistic for preventable deaths. In Montgomery County's efforts to advance our Vision Zero goals, last year, we ran a small proof of concept study of automated enforcement technology to detect distracted driving involving the use of a cell phone. After three days of testing the equipment at three locations in the County. Nearly 800 violations were recorded over the three-day period.

Authorizing a limited pilot of this automated enforcement technology in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties would allow for a more robust study of the technology and provide a greater opportunity to identify potential issues that could be improved upon before considering a wider deployment.

To that end, I urge that the Committee adopt a favorable report on Senate Bill 613.