



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

TESTIMONY

March 27, 2025

Committee: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Bill: HB 915 - Motor Vehicles - Out-of-State Drivers - Automated Enforcement (Out-of-State Driver Accountability Act)

Position: Favorable with Amendments

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) supports House Bill 915 with amendments. The bill as amended requires municipal governments to produce quarterly reports around certain citations issued by automated traffic enforcement devices without allowing certain entities to pursue claims to recoup certain out-of-state unpaid fines. Without the ability to pursue claims for out-of-state drivers' unpaid fines the reporting requirements of this bill will increase the cost to municipal governments to operate automated traffic enforcement devices.

The bill requires municipal governments that operate automated traffic enforcement devices to submit quarterly reports with a focus on violations issued to out of state drivers. The information must be updated each quarter and also include a cumulative summary of the information. In some cases, this could increase costs to municipalities as there may be an increased charge from the automated traffic enforcement device vendor to produce this new and ongoing report with specific criteria to be included.

The MML proposed amendments seek to reinsert the authority to pursue claims against out-of-state drivers to offset the increased costs of the mandatory reporting. Specifically, the amendments expand the authority to pursue claims against out of state drivers to all states and tether the mandatory reporting to whether the municipality had a claim pursued on their behalf.



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Amendment 1. - Remove reporting requirements for those local governments that do not have claims pursued on their behalf.

(B) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (E), EACH COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL AUTOMATED TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM SHALL SUBMIT A QUARTERLY REPORT TO THE COORDINATOR STATING, FOR EACH CITATION ISSUED DURING THE APPLICABLE QUARTER TO A MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTERED IN ANOTHER STATE:

(E) FOR COUNTIES AND MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS THAT DO NOT HAVE CLAIMS PURSUED UNDER THE AUTHORITY IN SECTION 26-205, THOSE JURISDICTIONS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

Amendment 2. - Expand the universe of states to all states, not just Washington, DC.
Reinsert 26-205.

(A) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OR THE APPROPRIATE LOCAL STATE'S ATTORNEY MAY BRING A CIVIL ACTION IN THE APPROPRIATE COURT FOR THE PAYMENT OF AN UNPAID AND OVERDUE TRAFFIC CITATION, INCLUDING TRAFFIC CITATIONS ISSUED UNDER AN AUTOMATED ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM, AGAINST:

(1) A RESIDENT OF ~~THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA~~ A STATE OTHER THAN MARYLAND WHO IS THE DRIVER OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE THAT WAS INVOLVED IN THE TRAFFIC VIOLATION THAT LED TO THE CITATION;

(2) A RESIDENT OF ~~THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA~~ A STATE OTHER THAN MARYLAND TO WHOM THE MOTOR VEHICLE THAT WAS INVOLVED IN THE TRAFFIC VIOLATION THAT LED TO THE CITATION IS REGISTERED; OR

(3) A MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTERED IN ~~THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA~~ A STATE OTHER THAN MARYLAND THAT WAS INVOLVED IN THE TRAFFIC VIOLATION THAT LED TO THE CITATION.

For these reasons, the Maryland Municipal League respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 915 with the above amendments. For more information, please contact Bill Jorch, Director, Public Policy and Research at 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.