



AAA Mid-Atlantic's Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 118 Motor Vehicles – Speed Monitoring Systems – Penalties

Sponsor: Senator Waldstreicher

- AAA Mid-Atlantic supports [SB 118 - Motor Vehicles – Speed Monitoring Systems – Penalties](#) which would increase fines based upon how much a driver is exceeding the posted speed limit on Maryland roads with speed monitoring systems.
- AAA Mid-Atlantic has been supportive of Maryland's automated speed enforcement systems for two decades, working with the legislature in 2005 to launch Maryland's first pilot program for automated speed enforcement in residential areas and school zones in Montgomery County.
- Again in 2009, AAA supported the expansion of automated speed enforcement camera systems statewide for use in work and school zones, recognizing that police officers can't be all places at once and believing that automated enforcement is a significant safety tool to supplement law enforcement efforts to curtail speeding.
- In 2012, AAA was appointed to represent drivers and make recommendations to address issues with Baltimore City's automated traffic enforcement program, which was under scrutiny.
- The Task Force's evaluation resulted in legislative changes in 2013, which included AAA's recommendations to fix the system and restore the public's trust.
- AAA was honored to serve on [Governor Moore's Work Zone Safety Work Group \(WZSWG\)](#) in 2023 with other traffic safety stakeholders to recommend measures to improve safety in work zones.
- Those recommendations included legislation last year that increased fines for speeding in work zones.
- While we have seen some success with the use of speed cameras over the years, speeding continues to be one of the most dangerous and common activities observed on our nation's roadways.
- According to the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration \(NHTSA\)](#), nationally, speeding killed 12,151 people in 2022.
- In 2023, there were 577 fatal crashes in Maryland, according to the [MDOT MVA Highway Safety Office](#), resulting in 621 deaths. Speed was a factor in 102 of those fatalities. (*Source: MDOT MVA Highway Safety Office, data as of January 20, 2025*)
- Research by the [AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety](#), found that even modestly higher speeds at the time of a crash dramatically increase the chances of severe injury and death.

- We support the use of automated enforcement systems that are fair and reasonable, don't undermine or violate the public trust, and are safety-based.
- AAA Mid-Atlantic remains committed to the safety of all road users and are hopeful that increased fines, especially for super speeders will serve as a deterrent to speeding and will save lives.
- In the interest of public safety, we respectfully urge the Committee to give **SB 118 a favorable report.**

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