



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**SB 381 – Motor Vehicles – Automated Enforcement Programs – Privacy Protections**

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, Members of JPR:

SB 381 would put parameters on the use, access and retention of the massive amount of data that is collected from Marylanders through our automated enforcement programs.

Right now in Maryland law we allow a number of different automated enforcement programs:

- School bus cameras
- Red light cameras
- Speed cameras
  - In school zones
  - In work zones
  - In residential areas (Anne Arundel, Montgomery, Prince George's)
  - On certain roads in certain places (e.g. I-83, Rte. 210, Jessup Rd., Oxford Rd.)
- Vehicle height monitoring cameras
- Railroad grade crossing cameras
- On buses in dedicated bus lanes
- On stop signs in school zones in Prince George's County
- Montgomery and Prince George's Counties are authorized to use noise cameras

On top of these, each year there are more and more bills seeking to add more and more cameras. That is a lot of data that is collected. However, there is no statewide standard as to who has access to the data, what it can be used for, and how long it is kept. SB 381 would set that standard. With the explosion in surveillance technology, these are important parameters to put in place now.

Last session and during the interim Chair Korman and I tried to work with the Chiefs and Sheriffs. We accepted many amendments to address their concerns. To my dismay, I just learned they are still opposed. It is my understanding their position is that they run the program and therefore the data is theirs and they should be able to use it whenever/however they deem appropriate. With all due respect, I disagree. This is data that we as a government have told our citizens is being gathered for a specific purpose – speed, red light, etc. These are not general surveillance cameras. I understand that this data can be useful for other law enforcement purposes, which is why we have language that allows law enforcement to access this data in certain circumstances. But in order for the public to trust us – lawmakers and law enforcement alike – there need to be protections and parameters about how this data is accessed and used.

For the foregoing reasons, I ask for a favorable report on SB 381.