



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony

SB 485: Prince George's County – Speed Monitoring Systems – MD Route 210

Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 485. SB 485 is a critical piece of legislation that seeks to address the ongoing **crisis of reckless driving and excessive speeding** along Maryland Route 210/ Indian Head Highway.

For years, my constituents have consistently voiced their deep concerns over the dangerous conditions on MD 210. In fact, it has gotten so bad that a group of advocates from my district formed a community group, *MD 210 Traffic Safety Committee* to address these reckless driving on MD 210. Like them, I share these concerns, as I have witnessed firsthand the devastating consequences of reckless driving on this corridor. The high rate of speeding and reckless driving has led to numerous fatalities and life-altering accidents, making it one of the most hazardous roadways in our state. Too many families in our community have suffered unimaginable losses due to preventable traffic collisions. The *MD 210 Traffic Safety Committee* and others have called for action, and Senate Bill 485 is a direct and necessary response to their pleas for safety.

Statistics highlight the urgency of this issue. In the past decade, Maryland Route 210 has experienced more than 39 fatal crashes between the Charles County line and I-95/I-495, with four involving pedestrians. Additionally, between 2007 and 2022, 80 fatalities occurred on this highway. These alarming numbers underscore the critical need for enhanced safety measures.

Senate Bill 485 strengthens existing measures by increasing civil penalties for speed violations recorded by monitoring systems on Maryland Route 210. This bill establishes a tiered penalty system, ensuring that those who violate the speed limit by significant margins face appropriately escalating fines. Specifically, the proposed penalties are as follows:

- Exceeding the maximum posted speed limit by 12 to 15 mph: \$60
- Exceeding the maximum posted speed limit by 16 to 19 mph: \$80
- Exceeding the maximum posted speed limit by 20 to 29 mph: \$140
- Exceeding the maximum posted speed limit by 30 to 39 mph: \$270
- Exceeding the maximum posted speed limit by 40 mph or more: \$500

These increased penalties will serve as a **strong deterrent** to reckless driving behaviors that put lives at risk every day. The intent behind this legislation is **not** punitive, but rather to **safeguard** lives. By holding drivers accountable for excessive speeding, we can significantly reduce the number of accidents and fatalities on this vital roadway. Senate Bill 485 represents a crucial step toward making Indian Head Highway a safer place for all motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists who travel it daily.

Therefore, I urge this committee to stand with the residents of District 26 and beyond by advancing this bill. The time for action is now. We cannot afford to wait for another tragic accident to remind us of the urgent need for stricter enforcement measures.

I respectfully request a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 485.