

SB 402-JPR-FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Nina Themelis

Position: FAV



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

SB 402

February 4, 2025

TO: Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

RE: SB 0402 -Baltimore City - Speed Monitoring Systems - Maximum Penalty Increase

POSITION: Favorable

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 402.

Senate Bill 402 authorizes Baltimore City to increase the penalty amount for speed monitoring system violations from \$40 to \$60. This legislation is one of the Baltimore City Administration's priorities for the 2025 General Assembly session. Automated citations are one mechanism by which we encourage motorists to travel at safe rates of speed. The implementation of cameras throughout the City has greatly reduced the number of crashes and other driver related incidents where those cameras are located. SB 402 seeks to establish a secondary mechanism to deter unsafe driving by increasing the amount of the penalty associated with the infraction. By increasing the cost of a citation, the Administration seeks to further modify motorist behavior and encourage safe road travel within our city's roadways.

During 2024, the City issued more than 426,000 citations for speed monitored violations. While the speed camera programs in Baltimore City are focused on behavior modification, there are some potential monetary benefits from increasing the penalty if behavior does not change. Based on data from last year, if the proposed increase value of the violation has no impact on driver's behavior, it is estimated that the City could potentially generate \$6.1 million in additional revenues per year if the City chooses to increase by \$20 the existing penalty on speed monitoring violations. Regardless of any potential positive monetary impact, our aim is for motorist behavior to improve and provide safer roadways for all who travel within our city.

For the above stated reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **favorable** report on SB 402.

SB 402 Baltimore City - Speed Monitoring Systems -

Uploaded by: tamika winkler

Position: FAV

CORY V. MCCRAY
Legislative District 45
Baltimore City

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Chair, Health and Human Services

Vice Chair, Capital Budget

Executive Nominations Committee

Legislative Policy Committee

Joint Committee on Gaming Oversight



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800-492-7122 Ext. 3165
Cory.McCray@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Vote Yes on Senate Bill 402

Title: Baltimore City – Speed Monitoring Systems – Maximum Penalty Increase
Budget & Taxation
Hearing: February 4, 2025

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to request your favorable vote on **SB 402**, which increases the penalty for violating Baltimore city speed monitoring systems from \$40 to \$60.

SB 402 is another effort to reduce distracted driving, reckless driving, and other driver-influenced road incidents through increased penalties. Research shows that speed cameras, ticket prices, and other proactive traffic safety measures are effective at ensuring drivers follow traffic regulations. **SB 402** seeks to improve road safety by incentivizing constituents to drive safely and avoid increased fines. Thusly, **SB 402** can help influence drivers to drive less recklessly and make our streets safer.

I urge you to vote favorably for **Senate Bill 402**. While a small increase in punitive measures, this bill will help reduce car incidents across Baltimore City by disincentivizing poor driving behaviors.

Continued Blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cory V. McCray".

Cory V. McCray
45th District

SB 402_MTBMA_FWA.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael Sakata

Position: FWA



February 4, 2025

Senator William Smith, Chair
Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 402 – FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS – Baltimore City – Speed Monitoring Systems – Maximum Penalty Increase

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association (“MTBMA”) has been and continues to serve as the voice for Maryland’s construction transportation industry since 1932. Our association is comprised of 200 members. MTBMA encourages, develops, and protects the prestige of the transportation construction and materials industry in Maryland by establishing and maintaining respected relationships with federal, state, and local public officials. We proactively work with regulatory agencies and governing bodies to represent the interests of the transportation industry and advocate for adequate state and federal funding for Maryland’s multimodal transportation system.

Senate Bill 402 would increase the penalty associated with civil citations issued from speed monitoring systems in Baltimore City from \$40 to \$60.

MTBMA supports this legislation and all legislation that seeks to increase penalty fees associated with speed monitoring camera systems. Maryland penalty fees are the lowest in the country, especially compared to our neighboring jurisdictions. We simply ask that this bill align with SB 520 in terms of requiring that the revenue generated be used for highway safety and SHA system preservation, after covering the costs of implementing and administering the program.

The current speed monitoring program requires local jurisdictions to spend revenues on public safety, but otherwise is not prescriptive in the types of public safety measures it is to be used on. We have found that sometimes the money is directed to programs that don’t go directly back into creating safer roads—such as vehicles and salaries. We have always advocated that should speed monitoring systems be deployed in Maryland, that the revenue, which we see only as a secondary benefit to changing driver behavior be put right back into road safety.

We appreciate you taking the time to consider our amendment request on Senate Bill 402.

Thank you,

Michael Sakata
President and CEO
Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association

SB 402, Support with amendment.pdf

Uploaded by: Ron Weiss

Position: FWA

SB 402, Support with amendment

Ronald Weiss, Fort Washington

I support SB 402 which will reduce excessive speed and enhance safety by expanding the use of automated enforcement beyond traditional work zones.

[ZeroDeathsMD](#) reports 51 Baltimore City road fatalities in 2024 including 22 pedestrians. This is an unconscionable tragedy.

Automated enforcement on MD 210 has proven very effective in reducing speed in non-work zones. Reducing speed results in fewer and less severe crashes and will save lives. SB 520 will do the same for other Maryland roads.

I recommend that this bill be amended to align with the tiered fine structure of Senator Waldstreicher's SB 118, attached.

I sincerely hope you will support life-saving legislation - SB 402.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like further information or if I can assist in any way.

MGA 2025 Testimony Bill SB0402 (Speed Monitoring S

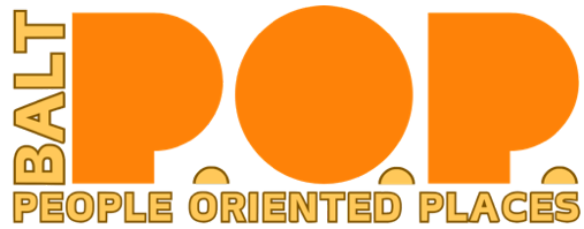
Uploaded by: Michael Scepaniak

Position: INFO

Bill: SB0402

Bill Title: Baltimore City - Speed Monitoring Systems - Maximum Penalty Increase

Position: **Informational Only**



Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee,

We are a group which advocates for a built environment which is safe and convenient for all people, whether they are moving through that environment on foot, on a bicycle, in a wheelchair, via public transit, or in an automobile. While we are generally supportive of SB0402, by itself, **we would prefer to see SB0118 enacted into law.**

We submitted written testimony in support of SB0118 and we stand behind that testimony. This bill (SB0402) will allow Baltimore City to raise the minimum penalty that may be exacted for excessive speed. When simply considering inflation, raising the maximum from the \$40 penalty amount makes sense. But, we prefer the escalating penalty structure called for by SB0118, as it highlights the escalating danger to others posed by escalating vehicle speeds.

In our testimony for SB0118, we stated that **we'd like to see the penalty amounts at the first two tiers significantly raised.** This is because **the chances of a pedestrian dying when being struck by a vehicle traveling at 42 mph is 50/50.** We believe that the \$40 bottom tier penalty amount called for in that bill is too low, and we similarly believe that the \$60 base penalty amount called for in this bill is too low.

In 2024, the following escalating penalty structure was implemented in Maryland for speeding violations captured by work zone speed cameras - when workers are present:

- 12 - 15 MPH, inclusive - \$120
- 16 - 19 MPH, inclusive - \$160
- 20 - 29 MPH, inclusive - \$280
- 30 - 39 MPH, inclusive - \$540
- 40 or more MPH - \$1,000

These are the amounts more akin to what we would like to see instituted for **all** speed monitoring systems in Maryland.

Maryland is struggling to make any progress with its Vision Zero initiatives. If we can take bold steps to protect our roadway workers (who benefit from the presence of concrete jersey barriers and other protective measures), we should take the same bold steps to protect our completely exposed and vulnerable road users (i.e., pedestrians and bicyclists).

The reasoning goes beyond simple punishment. Doing so better reflects the true externalized risks speeding vehicles pose to the vulnerable road users around them, even at the lowest speeds.

We hope the committee finds these points helpful and convincing and we urge its members to pass on this bill (SB0402) and to, instead, **vote in favor of SB0118, with our suggested amendments**. Thank you for your efforts and the opportunity for us to testify on this legislation.

[BaltPOP - Baltimoreans for People-Oriented Places](#)

Notes to myself

<https://www.criminaldefenselawyer.com/resources/criminal-defense/state-felony-laws/maryland-felony-class.htm>

<https://www.criminaldefenselawyer.com/resources/criminal-defense/crime-penalties/petty-theft-maryland-penalties-defense>

<https://mdcriminalattorney.net/maryland-assault-lawyer/first-and-second-degree/>

<https://www.criminaldefenselawyer.com/resources/cruelty-to-animals.html>

https://nacto.org/docs/usdg/relationship_between_speed_risk_fatal_injury_pedestrians_and_car_occupants_richards.pdf