

SB 501-JPR-FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Nina Themelis

Position: FAV



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

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

SB 501

February 4, 2025

TO: Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

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

RE: SB 0501 -Baltimore City - Speed Monitoring System Citations - Late Fees

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) 501.

Senate Bill 501 authorizes the City to impose a late fee on speed monitoring system citations that are paid after the due date. This bill strengthens Baltimore City's ability to enforce speed monitoring system violations by allowing the assessment of late fees for unpaid citations. The legislation ensures greater compliance, improves collection rates, and enhances public safety by reinforcing the financial accountability of violators. Currently, jurisdictions are able to impose late fees for unpaid parking citations but State law is silent as to whether late fees may be imposed for automated citations.

Between July 17, 2017 and January 31, 2025, Baltimore City has issued a total of 5,761,153 speed monitoring system violations, with only 4,155,519 violations paid, resulting in a collection rate of 71.1%. This leaves 1,605,634 unpaid violations, contributing to revenue losses and reducing the effectiveness of enforcement efforts.

Without this bill, Baltimore City lacks the authority to enforce late fees, leaving a significant portion of fines unpaid. Implementing late fees will incentivize violators to settle their penalties in a timely manner, enhance collection rates, and ensure the city can continue funding critical public safety initiatives.

By ensuring greater financial accountability, this bill enhances enforcement efforts, improves compliance, and strengthens Baltimore City's commitment to safer roads.

For the above stated reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **favorable** report on SB 501.

SB 501 Baltimore City – Speed Monitoring System Ci

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



James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 221
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3165 · 301-858-3165
800-492-7122 Ext. 3165
Cory.McCray@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Vote Yes on Senate Bill 501

Bill Title: Baltimore City – Speed Monitoring System Citations – Late Fees

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Hearing Date: February 4th, 2025

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Esteemed Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I write to express my strong support for Senate Bill 501, legislation that strengthens the enforcement of speed monitoring system citations in Baltimore City by providing clear notice regarding late fees and authorizing the Baltimore Police Department to impose such fees for unpaid civil penalties.

Automated speed enforcement has proven to be an effective tool in promoting roadway safety and reducing traffic violations. However, compliance with speed camera citations is critical to ensuring the long-term success of these systems. SB 501 enhances the enforcement mechanism by requiring citations issued within Baltimore City to include explicit information about potential late fees, ensuring that individuals are fully informed of the consequences of non-payment. Furthermore, it grants the city the authority to impose a late fee when a penalty remains unpaid or uncontested within a designated time frame.

This measure serves two key objectives. First, it incentivizes timely payment and compliance, reinforcing the effectiveness of speed monitoring systems as a deterrent to reckless driving. Second, it provides Baltimore City with an additional enforcement tool to ensure accountability while maintaining fairness and transparency in the citation process. Importantly, existing due process protections remain intact—individuals retain the right to contest citations in court, and all enforcement actions are subject to established procedural safeguards.

By reinforcing compliance with speed camera citations, SB 501 advances Baltimore City's broader commitment to traffic safety and responsible enforcement. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 501.

Continued Blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cory V. McCray', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cory V. McCray
45th District