

HON. STACY A. MAYER  
CIRCUIT COURT  
JUDGE  
BALTIMORE COUNTY  
CHAIR

HON. RICHARD SANDY  
CIRCUIT COURT  
JUDGE  
FREDERICK COUNTY  
VICE-CHAIR



KELLEY O'CONNOR  
ASSISTANT STATE COURT  
ADMINISTRATOR  
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS  
AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
P: (410) 260-1560

SUZANNE PELZ, ESQ.  
SNR. GOVT. RELATIONS AND  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER  
P: (410)260-1523

## MARYLAND JUDICIAL COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** House Environment and Transportation Committee  
**FROM:** Legislative Committee  
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.  
410-260-1523  
**RE:** House Bill 1227  
Prince George's County – Crosswalk Monitoring Systems –  
Authorization PG 323-26  
**DATE:** February 4, 2026  
(3/12)  
**INFORMATIONAL COMMENT PAPER**

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The Judiciary respects the separation of powers doctrine and acknowledges the policy-making authority of the legislative branch. As such, the Judiciary has no position on the policy aims of this legislation.

The Maryland Judiciary only writes to note that this bill will have a significant fiscal and operational impact on the Judiciary.

The fiscal impact stems less from House Bill 1227 itself and more from how it operates in conjunction with existing language in Courts & Judicial Proceedings § 7-302. As amended last year in [Chapter 587](#), § 7-302 requires the District Court to accept payments for both uncontested as well as contested citations that are issued by a speed monitoring system controlled by a State agency. Historically, whether a State Agency or a municipality, the District Court only handled contested citations. The number of uncontested cases is unknown and are processed by the issuing jurisdictions. Accordingly, the District Court has no record of a citation until it is contested. The District Court does not have a method in place to recognize uncontested state agency issued citations.

This bill authorizes the use of crosswalk monitoring systems in school zones, if authorized by local law in Prince George's County. As a result, any State-agency-issued citation under that expanded authority would fall within the existing requirement to process payments through the District Court.

The court currently processes these monitoring citations through a largely manual workflow. The fiscal note reflects the conclusion that a significant expansion in monitoring citations could not be absorbed without automating citation intake and payment processing within the case management system. The estimate, therefore, reflects automation and associated staffing and IT costs, rather than increased adjudication activity. To automate the current manual process, the Judiciary's case management system will require extensive programming changes. The Judicial Information Systems Department estimates that implementing the necessary programming changes will require 9549.6 hours at an approximate cost of \$1,414,741.20.

This revision to Courts and Judicial Proceedings Code § 7-302 last year will significantly alter long-standing payment and processing practices and is a primary driver of the court's need to further digitize its automated enforcement citation programs. By shifting a substantially larger volume of uncontested payments into the court's workflow, the statute necessitates system automation and associated staffing and IT investments that were not previously required.

cc. Prince George's County Delegation  
Judicial Council  
Legislative Committee  
Kelley O'Connor