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**HB 0249**

February 12, 2026

**TO:** Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

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

**RE:** House Bill 249 – Vehicle Laws – Automated Enforcement – Reciprocal Agreements, Arrangements, and Declarations

**POSITION: FAVORABLE**

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 249.

HB 249 authorizes the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to enter into reciprocal agreements, arrangements, or declarations with other jurisdictions to allow for the enforcement of automated traffic violations, including those recorded by speed and traffic signal (such as red light) cameras. The bill would allow MVA to refuse to register or re-register motor vehicles with outstanding violations under said agreements.

This legislation addresses a significant gap in automated traffic enforcement. Vehicles registered outside of Maryland can avoid accountability for speeding, red-light, and other camera citations, undermining compliance and weakening the effectiveness of traffic safety programs. This lack of accountability rewards bad behavior by allowing drivers of improperly registered vehicles to routinely break the law without facing consequences. In Baltimore City, 81.667% of camera citations issued to VA tags in 2024 and 63.268% in 2025 are outstanding. This is in comparison to only 23.2% of outstanding camera citations for MD tags in 2024 and 26.5% outstanding in 2025. HB 249 would ensure that *all* drivers on Maryland roadways are held to the same standard regardless of where their vehicle is registered.

The ability to pursue reciprocal enforcement is particularly important for Baltimore City, which acts as a regional destination for tourists and commuters alike. Automated enforcement is a proven safety tool that protects all road users by correcting unsafe driver behavior. Allowing for reciprocal enforcement agreements will level the playing field and ensure no one is exempt from safe driving.

For the above stated reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **favorable** report on HB 249.