

JULIE PALAKOVICH CARR
Legislative District 17
Montgomery County

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Ways and Means Committee

Chair, Early Childhood Subcommittee

Chair, Montgomery County
House Delegation



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 202
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3037
800-492-7122 Ext. 3037
Julie.PalakovichCarr@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of HB 601
Montgomery County – Stop Sign Monitoring Systems Pilot Program –
Gaithersburg and Rockville**

This local bill would enable the City of Gaithersburg and the City of Rockville to use stop sign monitoring systems in school zones. This bill gives each of these municipalities the ability to participate in the existing pilot program that was enacted for Prince George's County in 2024 and was expanded to include Takoma Park and Baltimore City in 2025.¹

School zones contain some of our most vulnerable pedestrians. In Montgomery County, 38% of elementary school students, 25% of middle school students, and 29% of high school students live in their school's walk zone.²

Intersections with a stop sign are significantly more likely than other types of intersections to be the site of a fatal crash, based on nationwide data.³ In Gaithersburg, 20% of crashes involving a non-motorist occur at an intersection with a stop sign.⁴ In 2024 in Rockville, there were 15 crashes within school zones at intersections with a stop sign.⁵ And these statistics don't include the countless near misses that pedestrians face.

Notably, the state-authorized pilot program has many protections built in. Local jurisdictions must authorize the use of stop sign monitoring systems by local law and only after providing reasonable notice and holding a public hearing. Before deployment, notice of each new camera must be posted on the local government's website and signage installed near the intersection. Violations are limited to no more than \$40 and can be appealed by the driver. By comparison, a moving violation issued by a police officer for failure to stop at a stop sign is more than double that amount, with the additional consequence of one point on your license. Additionally, local governments

¹ Prince George's: [HB 364 \(2024\)](#), Baltimore City and Takoma Park: [HB 1226 \(2025\)](#)

² Montgomery County Public Schools, March 2020

³ [U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration: Intersection Safety Case Study](#)

⁴ [Gaithersburg Local Road Safety Plan 2024 Study Report](#)

⁵ Data provided by the City of Rockville

must also report to the state on the implementation and effectiveness of stop sign monitoring systems.

Both the City of Rockville and the City of Gaithersburg have committed to improving roadway safety. The City of Rockville adopted a Vision Zero plan, which includes increasing enforcement activities and exploring the expansion of automated enforcement.⁶ The City of Gaithersburg initiated a Local Road Safety Plan to assist in analyzing and prioritizing road safety improvements, which identified intersections, pedestrians, and bicyclists as key emphasis areas.⁷

HB 601 would allow Rockville and Gaithersburg to join the existing stop sign camera pilot program. Both municipalities are in support of this bill. By utilizing automated enforcement, these cities can mitigate risky driving behavior, reduce crashes, and protect students as they travel between school and home.

This local bill passed the Montgomery County House Delegation unanimously.

⁶ [Rockville's Vision Zero Action Plan](#)

⁷ [Gaithersburg Local Road Safety Plan 2024 Study Report](#), see page 28