

AI Carr - FAVORABLE testimony on HB1283

March 3, 2026

Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton and members of E&T:

Please vote favorably on HB1283 Maryland Transportation Authority - Video Tolls - Collection.

My reputation as one of the go-to toll policy reformers continued after my service in the House of Delegates. I am still contacted periodically by people who are desperate for help because they've been caught up in the anti-consumer aspects of Maryland's toll road system.

The ability for MDTA to recall toll debt from the CCU and waive penalties is a common sense measure.

The overwhelming percentage of toll debt is from video toll late fees, not from the underlying tolls. A comparison of Maryland's toll enforcement policy with Massachusetts points the way to a more sensible path. Massachusetts is able to collect most of the tolls owed through two policies:

- Simply flagging vehicles registrations for non-renewal
- Entering into reciprocal enforcement agreements with nearby states

Unfortunately the mentality at MDTA is to treat \$25 per-transaction video toll late fees as a revenue stream similar to a bridge or a toll road. This is the wrong approach.

Here are additional reforms you might want to consider in this bill or in future bills:

- Reduce per transaction video toll late fees (civil penalty) from \$25 to \$5. (I believe they are \$2 in Massachusetts)
- Stop the Hogan-era practice of garnishing income tax refunds to collect toll debt

Al Carr - FAVORABLE testimony on HB1283

- Stop the practice of suspending vehicle registrations because of toll debt. Now that 67% of vehicle owners choose a 1-year renewal, flagging vehicles for non-renewal is sufficient
- Stop MDTA's practice of collecting a drivers license number when registering an E-ZPass transponder. It is unnecessary, overly intrusive and could lead to unfortunate outcomes for our immigrant neighbors. Massachusetts doesn't do it.
- Allow drivers to contest civil penalties virtually instead of having to take off work and physically "appear" in circuit court in up to 2 jurisdictions for the same set of "violations"
- Do not allow MDTA to sell toll debt to the highest bidder as is the practice in states like Georgia

Sincerely,

Al Carr