



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Marc Korman, Chair
and Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Darren Popkin, Executive Director, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Samira Jackson, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: March 5, 2026

RE: **HB 1408 - Motor Vehicles - Automated Traffic Enforcement Systems -
Impoundment**

POSITION: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT HB 1408 WITH AMENDMENTS**. House Bill 1408 authorizes a local authority to impound a vehicle when it has accrued a specified number of unpaid automated enforcement citations, such as speed or red-light camera violations. The bill is intended to address repeat nonpayment by creating an enforcement mechanism for vehicles whose owners have failed to resolve multiple outstanding citations. It allows the jurisdiction to take enforcement action against the vehicle itself, rather than waiting for registration renewal or relying on existing collection processes, which can be slow or ineffective. The goal is to provide a practical tool to ensure compliance and restore accountability within automated traffic enforcement systems.

Automated enforcement exists to modify dangerous driving behavior and improve public safety. When drivers speed through school zones, ignore school bus stop arms, or run red lights, the consequences are not theoretical, and people are injured, property is damaged, and in some cases, lives are lost. Accountability is what drives behavior change. It is a significant statewide problem that thousands of drivers accumulate multiple automated enforcement citations and simply do not pay them. Some vehicles have accrued dozens of unpaid citations. In certain cases, more than 40 violations are tied to a single vehicle. These are not isolated oversights; they represent repeated, uncorrected dangerous conduct. When citations go unpaid, the intended deterrent effect is lost, and public safety suffers.

House Bill 1408 provides a mechanism to address chronic scofflaws and restore accountability to the automated enforcement system. However, we respectfully request one amendment. On page 2, lines 23 and 27, we ask that "law enforcement agency" be replaced with "local authority." Impoundment for unpaid citations, particularly parking or automated enforcement citations, is often administered by civilian agencies such as parking offices, finance departments, or departments of public works. In many jurisdictions, boot programs are used as a less burdensome and more cost-effective enforcement alternative to towing. Replacing "law enforcement agency" with "local authority" ensures the bill reflects how these programs are actually implemented and provides flexibility for local governments to use the

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most efficient enforcement tools available. For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT HB 1408 WITH AMENDMENTS** and urge a **FAVORABLE** committee report.