



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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HB 1522

DATE: March 12, 2026

SPONSOR: Delegate Odom, et al.

ASSIGNED TO: Environment and Transportation

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POSITION: Support (Montgomery County Department of Police)

Traffic Control Signal Monitoring and Speed Monitoring Systems – Exemptions From Liability – Vehicle Rental Companies

House Bill 1522 removes in State law an exemption providing vehicle rental and leasing companies from red light and speed automatic traffic enforcement (ATE) violations. The exemption would remain for other automated enforcement programs such as school bus arm violations under Transportation Article § 21-706.1. The Montgomery County Department of Police supports this legislation.

Maryland is one of a handful of states that gives motorists driving rental or leased vehicles a free pass from paying traffic citations captured on automated red-light cameras and speed cameras. In most states, rental car companies collect on ATE violations by acting as the registered owner, paying the fine directly to authorities, and then charging the driver's credit card for the fine and administrative fees. These charges are authorized by the rental contract signed by the driver and can appear weeks or months after the violation and the return of the vehicle.

Failing to obey red lights and ignoring posted speed limits is dangerous to other motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians. As such, regardless of whether the vehicle is owned, rented, or leased, all drivers should be held accountable for following traffic laws. The Montgomery County Department of Police urges the Committee to adopt a favorable report on House Bill 1522.