



SafeRoadsMD

PLEASE SUPPORT HB HB 1408 –  
“Motor Vehicles – Automated Traffic  
Enforcement Systems – Impoundment”

**MARYLAND COALITION FOR ROADWAY SAFETY, INC.  
URGES MD HOUSE ENT COMMITTEE SUPPORT FOR HB 1408**

March 3, 2026

TO:

Honorable Delegate Marc Korman, Chair  
Honorable Delegate Michele Guyton, Vice Chair  
House Environment and Transportation Committee  
Maryland General Assembly  
250 & 251 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

FROM:

John Seng, Chair  
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[SafeRoadsMD.org](http://SafeRoadsMD.org)

**Subj: SUPPORT HB 1408 – Motor Vehicles – Automated Traffic Enforcement Systems –  
Impoundment**

Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton and Members of the Maryland House Environment and Transportation Committee,

SafeRoadsMD strongly supports HB 1408 – “Motor Vehicles – Automated Traffic Enforcement Systems – Impoundment,” which authorizes a law enforcement agency to impound a motor vehicle when three or more automated traffic enforcement citations are unpaid and at least 30 days overdue, with important guardrails (impoundment only as a secondary action during another stop, or when the vehicle is parked).

**Chronic nonpayment is a safety signal—not a paperwork glitch**

HB 1408 is about restoring full credibility to automated enforcement by addressing the small subset of drivers who treat road laws as optional. Research consistently finds that **drivers who commit traffic violations are a higher-risk group for future violations and crashes**, and that traffic offending is often **repetitive**—exactly the pattern HB 1408 targets. <sup>(PMC)</sup> In a Maryland-focused longitudinal study of speeding violators, researchers found that **drivers who receive speeding citations are at increased risk of receiving subsequent speeding citations**, underscoring that a subset of drivers keeps doing it. <sup>(PubMed)</sup>

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In plain terms: **multiple unpaid citations are not random**—they are frequently the visible tip of an ongoing risky-driving iceberg. Other jurisdictions have confronted the same reality: reporting on Washington, D.C.’s camera enforcement describes how the inability to meaningfully pursue scofflaws allowed **repeat offenders to rack up massive unpaid balances while continuing dangerous behavior.**

[\(The Washington Post\)](#)

### **HB 1408 puts the public interest first—exactly where it belongs**

Maryland’s public roads are shared by everyone: drivers, pedestrians, cyclists, schoolchildren, seniors, and transit riders. The public interest requires **coherent, fair enforcement** of road law so that compliance is the norm—not a suggestion. HB 1408 advances that basic fairness: people who repeatedly ignore automated citations should not be allowed to keep operating as if there are no consequences.

And to be clear: **if someone truly cannot afford to pay**, the answer cannot be an administrative “hug” and “keep driving the same way and keep ignoring the citations.” The responsible alternative is require **using other forms of transportation** until the issue is resolved—public transit, carpooling, rideshare, walking, biking, or other lawful options. Including work from home. Driving is a privilege that carries real obligations. Hardship cases exist, but Maryland’s road safety policy cannot be designed around the extreme periphery of individual hardship by day—and bad actors by night—while the broader public absorbs the risk.

### **HB 1408 is measured—and includes common-sense safeguards**

This bill does not create stops solely to seize vehicles for camera tickets. It restricts impoundment to:

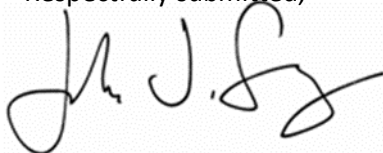
- **A secondary action** when an officer has already detained a driver for another suspected violation, or
- **When the vehicle is parked**, not through a new pretext stop.

Those limits matter. They keep this bill focused on accountability and repeat noncompliance—while reducing the risk of arbitrary enforcement.

### **Request for a favorable report**

SafeRoadsMD respectfully urges the Committee to issue a **Favorable Report on HB 1408**. Maryland cannot build a safety culture while allowing chronic violators to treat automated enforcement as ignorable mail. HB 1408 strengthens the integrity of our laws, reinforces deterrence, and protects the people who are already doing the right thing.

Respectfully submitted,



John J. Seng, Chair,  
Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety, Inc.

cc: SafeRoadsMD Board of Directors