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Anne Arundel County

Judicial Proceedings Committee

Joint Committee on Children,
Youth, and Families



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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SPONSOR TESTIMONY

Senate Bill 487

**Motor Vehicles – Speed Monitoring Systems – Safety Corridors
(Vulnerable Road User Protection Act of 2026)**

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton and Committee Members

For the record, I am Senator Shaneka Henson representing District 30 in Anne Arundel County. Thank you for the opportunity to present Senate Bill 487, the *Vulnerable Road User Protection Act of 2026*. We respectfully request a favorable vote on this legislation, which aligns with the departmental and carries a neutral fiscal note.

Senate Bill 487 advances *Maryland's Vision Zero* commitment to reducing serious injuries and fatalities on our roadways. By authorizing the use of speed monitoring systems on high-risk safety corridors—identified through the federally required, data-driven Vulnerable Road User Assessment—this bill aims to better protect pedestrians, cyclists, and other vulnerable road users.

Data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration shows that the risk of a pedestrian fatality rises sharply as vehicle speed increases. For example, a pedestrian struck by a vehicle traveling 40 miles per hour or more faces an 85% likelihood of fatal injury. These vulnerable road users are our neighbors, family members, and friends, and we must use every available tool to ensure their safety.

Under this bill, the State Highway Administration—and local jurisdictions through enabling legislation—may operate speed cameras in designated high-risk corridors. Modeled after the existing Work Zone speed camera program, revenues collected will first support operational costs. Any additional funds will be directed toward statewide highway safety projects and programs.

Senate Bill 487 also establishes clear standards for the placement and operation of speed monitoring systems and ensures that camera deployment occurs in coordination with the appropriate local jurisdictions.

Thank you in advance for your favorable vote on SB487

Senator Shaneka Henson