



MARYLAND
Association of
COUNTIES

House Bill 1522

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

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Environment and Transportation Committee

Date: March 12, 2026

From: Sarah Sample

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 1522. This bill repeals the exemptions for a vehicle rental or leasing company from liability for citations issued by a red-light camera or speed monitoring system in Maryland. Public safety is enhanced by all motorists being subject to enforcement, rather than certain groups being openly exempted.

More frequently than ever, horrific traffic accidents have claimed the lives or good health of Maryland residents. Vehicle drivers and passengers aren't the only ones in danger – pedestrians and cyclists alongside the roadways are also at risk of harm or death. Research has shown that penalties for violations have the potential to change behavior and drive down the number of citations over time.

Currently, all Maryland counties with red light and speed cameras have challenges with citation compliance when tickets are issued to cars owned by rental or leasing companies, which means thousands of violations going unpaid. Counties believe, and research confirms, ensuring accountability can promote safety. The provisions of HB 1522 have the potential to compel rental and leasing organizations to make a concerted effort to educate clients on roadway safety and mandate fine payment compliance via user contracts or absorb the fees themselves. This has the potential to promote adherence to traffic safety laws and can encourage behavior designed to keep residents and roadway users safe.

HB 1522 creates an additional pathway to hold reckless drivers accountable for behaviors that have led to a surge in the frequency and severity of incidents that are regularly putting residents at risk. This change bolsters a new standard of accountability and safety across the region. For these reasons, MACo **SUPPORTS** HB 1522.