



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Marc Korman Chair, and
Members of the 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 12, 2026

RE: **SB – 921 - Traffic Control Signal Monitoring and Speed Monitoring Systems -
Exemptions From Liability - Vehicle Rental Companies**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT HB 1522**. This legislation removes the current exemption that prevents automated enforcement citations from being properly applied when a violation involves a rental or leased vehicle. As the law stands, these violations are treated differently from all other vehicles on Maryland roadways, resulting in a gap in enforcement and accountability.

Automated speed and red-light enforcement programs are designed to deter unsafe driving behavior and improve roadway safety. When drivers operating rental vehicles are effectively insulated from enforcement consequences, the deterrent value of these systems is weakened. If a violation does not result in a meaningful penalty or accountability mechanism, it undermines the uniform application of traffic safety laws and reduces the overall effectiveness of the program.

HB 1522 restores consistency by ensuring that all drivers, regardless of vehicle ownership status, are subject to the same automated enforcement framework. Equal accountability strengthens deterrence, promotes fairness, and supports the State's ongoing efforts to reduce dangerous driving behaviors. For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT HB 1522** and urge a **FAVORABLE** committee report.