

SENATE BILL 936

R5
HB 206/25 – ENT

6lr1358
CF HB 1113

By: **Senators West, Smith, and Waldstreicher**
Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026
A

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
Senate action: Adopted
Read second time: March 6, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – Bus Obstruction Monitoring Systems and Bus Stop Zones**

3 FOR the purpose of replacing references to a bus lane monitoring system with references
4 to a bus obstruction monitoring system; prohibiting a person from stopping,
5 standing, or parking a vehicle in a bus stop zone ~~if a transit vehicle is present, subject~~
6 ~~to certain exceptions~~; and generally relating to bus lane and bus stop zone
7 enforcement.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
10 Section 7–302(e)(2) and 10–311(e) and (h)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14 Article – General Provisions
15 Section 4–321(b)(7)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

18 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
19 Article – Transportation
20 Section 7–101(a) and (n), 21–1003(a), and 21–1133
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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1 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 2 Article – Transportation
 3 Section 12–113.1(b)(7) and 21–1134
 4 Annotated Code of Maryland
 5 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

6 ~~BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,~~
 7 ~~Article – Transportation~~
 8 ~~Section 21–1003(a) and 21–1133~~
 9 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
 10 ~~(2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)~~

11 BY adding to
 12 Article – Transportation
 13 Section 21–1003(gg)
 14 Annotated Code of Maryland
 15 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
 17 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

19 7–302.

20 (e) (2) (i) A citation issued as the result of any of the following systems or
 21 cameras controlled by a political subdivision shall provide that, in an uncontested case, the
 22 penalty shall be paid directly to that political subdivision:

- 23 1. A vehicle height monitoring system;
- 24 2. A traffic control signal monitoring system;
- 25 3. A speed monitoring system;
- 26 4. A work zone speed control system;
- 27 5. A stop sign monitoring system;
- 28 6. A school bus monitoring camera;
- 29 7. A bus [lane] **OBSTRUCTION** monitoring system; or
- 30 8. A noise abatement monitoring system.

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1 (ii) A citation issued as the result of any of the following systems or
 2 cameras controlled by a political subdivision shall provide that, in a contested case, the
 3 penalty shall be paid directly to the District Court:

- 4 1. A vehicle height monitoring system;
- 5 2. A traffic control signal monitoring system;
- 6 3. A speed monitoring system;
- 7 4. A work zone speed control system;
- 8 5. A stop sign monitoring system;
- 9 6. A school bus monitoring camera;
- 10 7. A bus [lane] **OBSTRUCTION** monitoring system; or
- 11 8. A noise abatement monitoring system.

12 (iii) A citation issued as the result of any of the following systems or
 13 cameras controlled by a State agency shall provide that, in an uncontested or contested
 14 case, the penalty shall be paid directly to the District Court:

- 15 1. A traffic control signal monitoring system;
- 16 2. A work zone speed control system;
- 17 3. A speed monitoring system; or
- 18 4. A bus [lane] **OBSTRUCTION** monitoring system.

19 10-311.

20 (e) A recorded image of a motor vehicle produced by a bus [lane] **OBSTRUCTION**
 21 monitoring system in accordance with § 21-1134 of the Transportation Article is admissible
 22 in a proceeding concerning a civil citation issued under that section for a violation of §
 23 **21-1003(GG) OR** § 21-1133 of the Transportation Article without authentication.

24 (h) In any other judicial proceeding, a recorded image produced by a vehicle
 25 height monitoring system, traffic control signal monitoring system, speed monitoring
 26 system, work zone speed control system, stop sign monitoring system, school bus
 27 monitoring camera, or bus [lane] **OBSTRUCTION** monitoring system or a recorded image
 28 and any relevant recorded audio produced by a noise abatement monitoring system in
 29 conjunction with a noise measuring device is admissible as otherwise provided by law.

1 Article – General Provisions

2 4–321.

3 (b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, a custodian shall deny
4 inspection of recorded images produced by:

5 (7) a bus [lane] OBSTRUCTION monitoring system operated under §
6 21–1134 of the Transportation Article;

7 Article – Transportation

8 7–101.

9 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

10 (n) (1) “Transit corridor” means a geographically bound set of two or more
11 contiguous subway, light rail, bus rapid transit, or bus transit stations.

12 (2) “Transit corridor” includes a geographically bound set of two or more
13 contiguous bus transit stations that have fixed–route bus service that operates on a
14 roadway dedicated to buses.

15 12–113.1.

16 (b) This section applies to:

17 (7) Bus [lane] OBSTRUCTION monitoring systems under § 21–1134 of this
18 article;

19 21–1003.

20 (a) The provisions of this section apply except as necessary to avoid conflict with
21 other traffic or in compliance with law or the directions of a police officer or traffic control
22 device.

23 (GG) (1) (i) IN THIS SUBSECTION, “BUS STOP ZONE” MEANS THE
24 PORTION OF ROADWAY DESIGNATED OR USED FOR LOADING AND UNLOADING
25 PASSENGERS FROM A BUS OR TRANSIT VEHICLE.

26 (ii) “BUS STOP ZONE” INCLUDES:

27 1. AN AREA FOR LOADING AND UNLOADING
28 PASSENGERS FROM A BUS OR TRANSIT VEHICLE THAT IS DESIGNATED BY SIGNAGE
29 OR PAVEMENT MARKINGS OR IDENTIFIED IN A TRANSIT AGENCY’S PUBLISHED
30 SCHEDULE OR ROUTE MAP;

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1 2. A BUS TRANSIT STATION; AND

2 3. A TRANSIT CORRIDOR, AS DEFINED IN § 7-101 OF
 3 THIS ARTICLE, USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH A DESIGNATED BUS STOP.

4 ~~(2) A PERSON MAY NOT STOP, STAND, OR PARK A VEHICLE IN A BUS~~
 5 ~~STOP ZONE IF A TRANSIT VEHICLE IS PRESENT IN THE BUS STOP ZONE UNLESS THE~~
 6 ~~PERSON:~~

7 ~~(1) (i) IS AUTHORIZED BY THE LOCAL JURISDICTION IN WHICH~~
 8 ~~THE BUS STOP ZONE IS LOCATED; OR~~

9 ~~(2) (i) (ii) 1. IS ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN THE LOADING OR~~
 10 ~~UNLOADING OF PASSENGERS; AND~~

11 ~~(ii) 2. HAS ACTIVATED THE VEHICLE'S HAZARD WARNING~~
 12 ~~LIGHTS.~~

13 21-1133.

14 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, a person may not drive,
 15 stand, or park a vehicle in a dedicated bus lane unless authorized by the local jurisdiction
 16 in which the dedicated bus lane is located.

17 (b) The following vehicles may be driven, allowed to stand, or, as appropriate,
 18 parked in a dedicated bus lane:

19 (1) A transit vehicle owned, operated, or contracted for by the Maryland
 20 Transit Administration, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, or a local
 21 department of transportation;

22 (2) A school bus;

23 (3) A bicycle;

24 (4) An emergency vehicle; and

25 (5) A vehicle making a right turn at the next immediate intersection.

26 21-1134.

27 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

28 (2) "Agency" means:

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1 (i) A law enforcement agency of the State or a local political
2 subdivision that is authorized to issue a citation for a violation of the Maryland Vehicle
3 Law or of local traffic laws or regulations;

4 (ii) For a municipal corporation that does not maintain a police force,
5 an agency established or designated by the municipal corporation to use bus [lane]
6 **OBSTRUCTION** monitoring systems in accordance with this section; or

7 (iii) A local, regional, or statewide transit agency or authority,
8 including the Maryland Transit Administration and the Washington Metropolitan Area
9 Transit Authority.

10 (3) “Bus [lane] **OBSTRUCTION** monitoring system” means an enforcement
11 system, including an onboard or fixed monitoring system, that is designed to capture a
12 recorded image of a motor vehicle during the commission of a violation.

13 (4) “Bus [lane] **OBSTRUCTION** monitoring system operator” means a
14 representative of an agency or a contractor that operates a bus [lane] **OBSTRUCTION**
15 monitoring system.

16 (5) (i) “Owner” means the registered owner of a motor vehicle or a
17 lessee of a motor vehicle under a lease of 6 months or more.

18 (ii) “Owner” does not include:

19 1. A motor vehicle leasing company; or

20 2. A holder of a special registration plate issued under Title
21 13, Subtitle 9, Part III of this article.

22 (6) “Recorded image” means an image recorded by a bus [lane]
23 **OBSTRUCTION** monitoring system:

24 (i) On:

25 1. A photograph;

26 2. A microphotograph;

27 3. An electronic image;

28 4. Videotape; or

29 5. Any other visual medium; and

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1 (ii) Showing a motor vehicle and, on at least one image or portion of
2 the recording, clearly identifying the registration plate number of the motor vehicle.

3 (7) “Violation” means a violation of:

4 **(I) § 21–1003(GG) OF THIS TITLE; OR**

5 **(II) § 21–1133 of this subtitle.**

6 (b) (1) An agency may use a bus [lane] **OBSTRUCTION** monitoring system that
7 meets the requirements of this subsection to record the images of motor vehicles during the
8 commission of a violation.

9 (2) A bus [lane] **OBSTRUCTION** monitoring system may be used only:

10 (i) When being operated by a bus [lane] **OBSTRUCTION** monitoring
11 system operator;

12 (ii) If, in accordance with the Maryland Manual on Uniform Traffic
13 Control Devices:

14 1. A conspicuous road sign is placed at a reasonable distance
15 consistent with national guidelines alerting drivers that a bus [lane] **OBSTRUCTION**
16 monitoring system may be in operation in the bus lane; or

17 2. A conspicuous sign is affixed to the transit vehicle alerting
18 drivers that the vehicle is equipped with a bus [lane] **OBSTRUCTION** monitoring system;
19 and

20 (iii) If the **BUS OBSTRUCTION MONITORING** system produces video
21 for each alleged violation that allows for the differentiation between a vehicle that is
22 driving, standing, or parked in a dedicated bus lane in violation of **§ 21–1003(GG) OF THIS**
23 **TITLE OR § 21–1133** of this subtitle and a vehicle that is lawfully stopped or moving in
24 order to execute a right turn at an intersection.

25 (3) (i) A bus [lane] **OBSTRUCTION** monitoring system may retain only
26 the images of vehicles that contain evidence of a violation.

27 (ii) Recorded images from a bus [lane] **OBSTRUCTION** monitoring
28 system:

29 1. That contain evidence of a violation may be retained for
30 up to 6 months or 60 days after final disposition of the citation, whichever is later;

31 2. That do not contain evidence of a violation shall be
32 destroyed within 15 days after the recorded images were first captured; and

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1 3. May not be used for any purpose other than as evidence of
2 a violation without a warrant, subpoena, or court order.

3 (iii) A bus [lane] **OBSTRUCTION** monitoring system may not use
4 biometric identification techniques, including facial recognition technology.

5 (c) (1) (i) A bus [lane] **OBSTRUCTION** monitoring system operator shall
6 complete training by the manufacturer of the bus [lane] **OBSTRUCTION** monitoring system
7 in the procedures for setting up, testing, and operating the bus [lane] **OBSTRUCTION**
8 monitoring system.

9 (ii) On completion of the training, the manufacturer shall issue a
10 signed certificate to the bus [lane] **OBSTRUCTION** monitoring system operator.

11 (iii) The certificate of training shall be admitted as evidence in any
12 court proceeding for a violation.

13 (2) A bus [lane] **OBSTRUCTION** monitoring system operator shall fill out
14 and sign a daily set-up log for each bus [lane] **OBSTRUCTION** monitoring system that:

15 (i) States the date and time when the **BUS OBSTRUCTION**
16 **MONITORING** system was set up;

17 (ii) States that the bus [lane] **OBSTRUCTION** monitoring system
18 operator successfully performed, and the device passed, the manufacturer-specified
19 self-tests of the bus [lane] **OBSTRUCTION** monitoring system before producing a recorded
20 image;

21 (iii) Shall be kept on file; and

22 (iv) Shall be admitted as evidence in any court proceeding for a
23 violation.

24 (d) (1) A bus [lane] **OBSTRUCTION** monitoring system shall undergo an
25 annual calibration check performed by an independent calibration laboratory.

26 (2) The independent calibration laboratory shall issue a signed certificate
27 of calibration after the annual calibration check that:

28 (i) Shall be kept on file; and

29 (ii) Shall be admitted as evidence in any court proceeding for a
30 violation [of § 21-1133 of this subtitle].

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1 (e) (1) Unless the driver of the motor vehicle received a citation from a police
2 officer at the time of the violation, the owner or, in accordance with subsection (h)(5) of this
3 section, the driver of a motor vehicle is subject to a civil penalty if the motor vehicle is
4 recorded by a bus [lane] **OBSTRUCTION** monitoring system during the commission of a
5 violation.

6 (2) A civil penalty under this section may not exceed \$75.

7 (3) For purposes of this section, the District Court shall prescribe:

8 (i) A uniform citation form consistent with subsection (f)(1) of this
9 section and § 7-302 of the Courts Article; and

10 (ii) A civil penalty, which shall be indicated on the citation, to be paid
11 by persons who choose to prepay the civil penalty without appearing in District Court.

12 (f) (1) Subject to the provisions of paragraphs (2) through (5) of this
13 subsection, an agency or a contractor of the agency shall mail to the owner liable under
14 subsection (e) of this section a citation that shall include:

15 (i) The name and address of the registered owner of the vehicle;

16 (ii) The registration number of the motor vehicle involved in the
17 violation;

18 (iii) The violation charged;

19 (iv) To the extent possible, the location of the violation;

20 (v) The date and time of the violation;

21 (vi) A copy of the recorded image;

22 (vii) The amount of the civil penalty imposed and the date by which
23 the civil penalty must be paid;

24 (viii) A signed statement by a police officer employed by the local law
25 enforcement agency that, based on inspection of the recorded images, the motor vehicle was
26 being operated during the commission of a violation;

27 (ix) A statement that the recorded image is evidence of a violation;
28 and

29 (x) Information advising the person alleged to be liable under this
30 section:

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1 1. Of the manner and time in which liability as alleged in the
2 citation may be contested in the District Court; and

3 2. That failure to pay the civil penalty or to contest liability
4 in a timely manner is an admission of liability and may result in refusal or suspension of
5 the motor vehicle registration.

6 (2) (i) Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, an agency may
7 mail a warning notice in place of a citation to the owner liable under subsection (e) of this
8 section.

9 (ii) An agency shall mail a warning notice in place of a citation to an
10 owner liable under subsection (e) of this section for a violation recorded by a bus [lane]
11 **OBSTRUCTION** monitoring system during the first 45 days that the bus [lane]
12 **OBSTRUCTION** monitoring system is in operation.

13 (3) (i) Before mailing a citation to a motor vehicle rental company liable
14 under subsection (e) of this section, an agency shall mail a notice to the motor vehicle rental
15 company stating that a citation will be mailed to the motor vehicle rental company unless,
16 within 45 days after receiving the notice, the motor vehicle rental company provides the
17 agency with:

18 1. A statement made under oath that states the name and
19 last known mailing address of the individual driving or renting the motor vehicle when the
20 violation occurred;

21 2. A. A statement made under oath that states that the
22 motor vehicle rental company is unable to determine who was driving or renting the vehicle
23 at the time the violation occurred because the motor vehicle was stolen at the time of the
24 violation; and

25 B. A copy of the police report associated with the motor
26 vehicle theft claimed under item A of this item; or

27 3. Payment for the penalty associated with the violation.

28 (ii) An agency may not mail a citation to a motor vehicle rental
29 company liable under subsection (e) of this section if the motor vehicle rental company
30 complies with subparagraph (i) of this paragraph.

31 (4) Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection and subsection
32 (h)(5) of this section, a citation issued under this section shall be mailed not later than 2
33 weeks after the alleged violation.

34 (5) A person who receives a citation under paragraph (1) of this subsection
35 may:

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1 (i) Pay the civil penalty, in accordance with instructions on the
2 citation, directly to the local jurisdiction; or

3 (ii) Elect to stand trial in the District Court for the alleged violation.

4 (6) To mail the citation or warning notice, the Baltimore City Police
5 Department or a contractor of the police department shall use:

6 (i) The current mailing address on file with the Administration; or

7 (ii) If a mailing address is unavailable, the current residential
8 address on file with the Administration.

9 (g) (1) (i) A certificate alleging that a violation occurred, sworn to or
10 affirmed by a duly authorized law enforcement officer employed or under contract with an
11 agency, based on inspection of a recorded image produced by a bus [lane] **OBSTRUCTION**
12 monitoring system, shall be evidence of the facts contained in the certificate and shall be
13 admissible in any proceeding concerning the alleged violation without the presence or
14 testimony of the bus [lane] **OBSTRUCTION** monitoring system operator who performed the
15 requirements under subsection (c) of this section.

16 (ii) If a person who received a citation under this section desires a
17 bus [lane] **OBSTRUCTION** monitoring system operator to be present and testify at trial,
18 the person shall notify the court and the agency in writing not later than 20 days before
19 trial.

20 (iii) 1. On request of a person who received a citation under this
21 section, video of the alleged violation shall be made available to the person.

22 2. Video evidence made available under subparagraph 1
23 of this subparagraph shall be admitted as evidence in any court proceeding for a violation
24 [of § 21–1133 of this subtitle].

25 (2) Adjudication of liability shall be based on a preponderance of evidence.

26 (h) (1) The District Court may consider in defense of an alleged violation:

27 (i) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, that the motor vehicle
28 or registration plates of the motor vehicle were stolen before the violation occurred and
29 were not under the control or in the possession of the owner at the time of the violation;

30 (ii) Subject to paragraph (3) of this subsection, evidence that the
31 person named in the citation was not operating the vehicle at the time of the violation; and

32 (iii) Any other issues and evidence that the District Court deems
33 relevant.

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1 (2) To demonstrate that the motor vehicle or the registration plates were
2 stolen before the violation occurred and were not under the control or in the possession of
3 the owner at the time of the violation, the owner shall submit proof that a police report
4 about the stolen motor vehicle or registration plates was filed in a timely manner.

5 (3) To satisfy the evidentiary burden under paragraph (1)(ii) of this
6 subsection, the person named in the citation shall provide to the District Court evidence to
7 the satisfaction of the District Court of who was operating the vehicle at the time of the
8 violation, including, at a minimum, the operator's name and current address.

9 (4) (i) This paragraph applies only to a citation that involves a Class E
10 (truck) vehicle with a registered gross weight of 26,001 pounds or more, a Class F (tractor)
11 vehicle, a Class G (trailer) vehicle operated in combination with a Class F (tractor) vehicle,
12 and a Class P (passenger bus) vehicle.

13 (ii) To satisfy the evidentiary burden under paragraph (1)(ii) of this
14 subsection, the person named in a citation described under subparagraph (i) of this
15 paragraph may provide to the District Court a letter, sworn to or affirmed by the person
16 and mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested, that:

17 1. States that the person named in the citation was not
18 operating the vehicle at the time of the violation; and

19 2. Provides the name, address, and driver's license
20 identification number of the person who was operating the vehicle at the time of the
21 violation.

22 (5) (i) If the District Court finds that the person named in the citation
23 was not operating the vehicle at the time of the violation or receives evidence under
24 paragraph (4)(ii)2 of this subsection identifying the person driving the vehicle at the time
25 of the violation, the clerk of the court shall provide to the agency a copy of any evidence
26 substantiating who was operating the vehicle at the time of the violation.

27 (ii) On the receipt of substantiating evidence from the District Court
28 under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph, an agency may issue a new citation as provided
29 in subsection (f) of this section to the person that the evidence indicates was operating the
30 vehicle at the time of the violation.

31 (iii) A citation issued under subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph shall
32 be mailed not later than 2 weeks after receipt of the evidence from the District Court.

33 (i) If the civil penalty is not paid and the violation is not contested, the
34 Administration may refuse to register or reregister the motor vehicle.

35 (j) A violation for which a civil penalty is imposed under this section:

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1 (1) Is not a moving violation for the purpose of assessing points under §
2 16–402 of this article and may not be recorded by the Administration on the driving record
3 of the owner or driver of the vehicle;

4 (2) May be treated as a parking violation for purposes of § 26–305 of this
5 article; and

6 (3) May not be considered in the provision of motor vehicle insurance
7 coverage.

8 (k) (1) In consultation with the appropriate local government agencies, the
9 Chief Judge of the District Court shall adopt procedures for the issuance of citations, trials
10 for violations, and the collection of civil penalties imposed under this section.

11 (2) The standards and requirements for the use, processing, and disposal
12 of recorded images and associated data established under § 12–113.1 of this article apply
13 to citations issued under this section.

14 (l) (1) An agency or a contractor designated by the agency shall administer
15 and process civil citations issued under this section in coordination with the District Court.

16 (2) If a contractor provides, deploys, or operates a bus [lane]
17 **OBSTRUCTION** monitoring system for an agency, the contractor’s fee may not be contingent
18 on the number of citations issued or paid.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the publisher of the
20 Annotated Code of Maryland, in consultation with and subject to the approval of the
21 Department of Legislative Services, shall correct, with no further action required by the
22 General Assembly, cross–references and terminology rendered incorrect by this Act. The
23 publisher shall adequately describe any correction that is made in an editor’s note following
24 the section affected.

25 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
26 October 1, 2026.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.