

HON. STACY A. MAYER
CIRCUIT COURT
JUDGE
BALTIMORE COUNTY
CHAIR

HON. RICHARD SANDY
CIRCUIT COURT
JUDGE
FREDERICK COUNTY
VICE-CHAIR



KELLEY O'CONNOR
ASSISTANT STATE COURT
ADMINISTRATOR
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
P: (410) 260-1560

SUZANNE PELZ, ESQ.
SNR. GOVT. RELATIONS AND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
P: (410)260-1523

MARYLAND JUDICIAL COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
FROM: Legislative Committee
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.
410-260-1523
RE: Senate Bill 487
Motor Vehicles – Speed Monitoring Systems – Safety Corridors
DATE: February 4, 2026
(2/12)
POSITION: Oppose

The Maryland Judiciary opposes Senate Bill 487 as it will have a significant fiscal and operational impact on the Judiciary.

The fiscal impact stems from the carry forward of the wording introduced last year that is now codified in Courts & Judicial Proceedings § 7-302. As amended last year in [Chapter 587](#), § 7-302 requires the District Court to accept payments for both **uncontested** as well as contested citations that are issued by a speed monitoring system controlled by a State agency. Historically, whether a State Agency or a municipality, the District Court only handled **contested** citations. The District Court has no record of a citation until it is contested. While the number of uncontested cases is unknown because they are processed by the issuing jurisdictions, it is estimated that the number of uncontested cases dwarfs the number of contested by margins to be as high as 50 times (6,000 contested cases to 300,000 uncontested cases). The District Court does not have a method in place to recognize uncontested state agency issued citations.

This bill establishes the use of speed monitoring systems in areas determined to be of high risk to vulnerable road users, as well as the provision for procurement, and collection and distribution of revenue. As a result, any State-agency-issued citation under

that expanded authority would fall within the existing requirement to process payments through the District Court.

The court currently processes these monitoring citations through a largely manual workflow. Because the current bill carries forward the requirement for the Court to process **uncontested** citations, the fiscal note reflects the conclusion that a significant expansion in monitoring citations could not be absorbed without automating citation intake and payment processing within the case management system. The estimate reflects automation and associated staffing and IT costs, rather than increased adjudication activity. To automate the current manual process, the Judiciary's case management system will require extensive programming changes. The Judicial Information Systems Department estimates that implementing the necessary programming changes will require 9549.6 hours at an approximate cost of \$1,414,741.20.

This revision to Courts and Judicial Proceedings Code § 7-302 last year requiring the District Court to process all citations, not just contested cases, will significantly alter long-standing payment and processing practices and is a primary driver of the court's need to further digitize its automated enforcement citation programs. By shifting a substantially larger volume of uncontested payments into the court's workflow, the statute necessitates system automation and associated staffing and IT investments that were not previously required.

Removal of the requirement for the court to process **uncontested** citations would significantly reduce the fiscal and operational concerns.

cc. Hon. Shaneka Henson
Judicial Council
Legislative Committee
Kelley O'Connor