

SB 173: Vehicle Laws - Automated Enforcement - Reciprocal Agreements,
Arrangements, and Declarations

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

FAVORABLE

January 21, 2026

Chair Smith and Committee Members,

I support SB 173, which would enhance enforcement of regional traffic laws, making road travel safer regionally for motorists and passengers, pedestrians, and bicyclists.

We must enforce traffic laws if we are to reach our Vision Zero goal of zero road deaths and serious injuries. Cracking down on illegally speeding drivers is a key element, as is ensuring that drivers obey traffic signals. Data shows that higher speeds mean more deaths and serious injuries, and a large proportion of collisions, including motor-vehicle drivers' hitting pedestrians and bicyclists, occur at intersections, even when they are signalized.

Maryland and surrounding jurisdictions have adopted automated enforcement, via speed and traffic control signal monitoring systems, to widen enforcement, which would be severely constrained if we relied only on in-person police traffic stops. Yet many drivers ignore citations they receive outside their home state, without consequences. We need to add teeth to make enforcement more effective, as a route toward safer streets and roads.

SB 173 would allow the Maryland administration to enact reciprocity agreements with Washington DC and other jurisdictions, for violations caught by automated enforcement. The bill has teeth: it would authorize the administration to deny vehicle re-/registration. Enacting SB 173 will be a very positive step toward safer streets and roads for everyone traveling regionally.

For this reason, I urge a favorable SB 173 committee report and Senate floor vote.

Seth Grimes

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