



Troy D. Berry
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Office of the Sheriff

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March 2, 2026

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee

The Honorable Jeff Waldstreicher
Vice Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee

Honorable Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

RE: **SB 921 – Traffic Control Signal Monitoring and Speed Monitoring Systems**

Dear Chairman Smith and Vice Chair Waldstreicher:

The Charles County Sheriff's Office supports SB 921 entitled, Traffic Control Signal Monitoring and Speed Monitoring Systems – Exemptions from Liability – Vehicle Rental Companies.

The Charles County Sheriff's Office's Automated Enforcement Unit is responsible for three automated enforcement systems: traffic control signal monitoring ("red light cameras"), school zone speed monitoring ("speed cameras"), and school bus stop monitoring ("bus cameras").

Each system is authorized by its own enabling statute but share commonalities. When a camera detects a public safety violation (running through a red light, speeding in a school zone, or failing to stop for a school bus), the violation is reviewed by the private vendor and forwarded to the Automated Enforcement Unit for review and approval of a citation. The citation is sent to the "owner" of the vehicle.

For bus cameras, "owner" means the registered owner of the motor vehicle. Md. Code Ann., Transp. §21-706.1(a)(3). For red light and speed cameras, however, "owner" "does *not* include a motor vehicle rental or leasing company." Md. Code Ann., Transp. §21-202.1(a)(3); Transp. §21-809(a)(4). In other words, there is no repercussions for the driver of a rental vehicle who drives through a red light or speeds through a school zone.

The sheer number of violations that have gone unaddressed speaks volumes:

	2024	2025
Red Light Camera	1, 246	1,309
Speed Camera	2,130	1,209

In Charles County, we have six speed cameras that rotate between 41 school zones. In 2025, vendor issues greatly limited the deployment of cameras. Despite those issues, the Automated Enforcement Unit

flagged over 1200 violations committed by rental cars.

Before a speed camera citation can be issued, the violator must be going *at least* 12 miles per hour over the posted speed limit. In 2025, the Automated Enforcement Unit has seen this breakdown of rental car violators:

MPH Over Limit	Number of Rental Car Violations
12-15	552
16-19	174
20-29	81
30-39	4
40+	2

81 rental cars drove through a school zone at 70 mph or greater. Four of them were traveling at least 80 mph. One rental car went 99 mph in a 45 mph zone.

The public safety ramifications should be obvious. Drivers of rental cars should not be permitted to jeopardize the safety of Marylanders with such impunity.

When this loophole is closed, rental car companies who receive citations have at least two options available. First, they can provide an affirmation that the company was not operating the vehicle and provide the renter's information. Second, the company can pay the citation and pass the cost (plus processing fees) to the renter. Passing the costs on to the violator is what rental car companies are already doing for other automated enforcement systems in Maryland such as bus cameras and toll cameras.

For these reasons, the Charles County Sheriff's Office requests a favorable report on SB 921. Thank you for the attention you are providing to this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Troy D. Berry
Sheriff