
March 26, 2026

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401

RE: Letter of Support – House Bill 246 – Maryland Transportation Authority – Tolls – Class G Tolling

Dear Chair Smith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) support House Bill 246 and offer the following information for the Committee's consideration.

Currently, MDTA may only toll motor vehicles. The term "motor vehicle" is defined in §11-135 of the Transportation Article as a vehicle that is self-propelled and not operated on rails. Class G vehicles, which include utility trailers, boat trailers, camping trailers, freight trailers, and semi-trailers, are not self-propelled and therefore do not meet the definition of motor vehicles; however, the registration plates on these trailers may be the only registration plates associated with a vehicle operating on an MDTA facility that are not obscured. HB 246 would authorize MDTA to toll the registered owner of a Class G vehicle (trailer) if an image of the front or rear registration plate of the motor vehicle towing the trailer cannot be captured.

If the registration plates of a motor vehicle are missing or obscured, sending a Notice of Toll Due to the registered owner is impossible, and MDTA is not able to collect the fee owed for use of its facility. The MDTA estimates that it loses approximately \$11 million annually in uncollected revenue from all 3+ axle vehicles due to its inability to notice the owner of a Class G vehicle. HB 246 would assist MDTA in capturing these lost fees.

Maryland would not be alone in this practice – currently, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island allow tolling of trailers at toll facilities. It is MDTA's intent to toll Class G vehicles as a last option when a motor vehicle's registration plates cannot be captured and there is no valid transponder read on the vehicle towing the trailer. After meeting with stakeholders and hearing their input, MDTA supported an amendment that was adopted in the House Environment and Transportation Committee to codify this practice in the bill text. Owners of Class G vehicles, who have Maryland E-ZPass or participate in MDTA's Pay-by-Plate option, can register their trailers on their account.

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The Maryland Department of Transportation and the Maryland Transportation Authority respectfully request the Committee consider this information during its deliberations and issue House Bill 246 a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Gartner
Executive Director
Maryland Transportation Authority
410-387-5253

Matt Mickler
Director of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-865-1090