

In Support of SB 206

Maryland General Assembly

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Senator Smith, Senator Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

I am Ron Weiss, a founding member of the Maryland 210 Traffic Safety Committee, and a SafeRoadsMD board member.

I support **SB 206**, sponsored by **Senator Muse**.

Background and Urgency

Maryland Route 210 is one of the most dangerous corridors in Prince George's County and in the state. Over 100,000 vehicles per day use 210. Residents who live along and near this highway have endured a long pattern of speed-related crashes, serious injuries, and fatalities. Automated speed enforcement has helped, but it has also revealed a serious gap in our current law.

A small number of vehicles continue to accumulate multiple speed-camera citations in a short period of time and simply ignore them. As a result, those vehicles remain on the road, and the behavior does not change.

Please refer to the Need for SB 206 at the end of my testimony.

What SB 206 Does

SB 206 strengthens existing law by adding a **time-certain, administrative consequence** for chronic noncompliance.

Specifically, it authorizes the Motor Vehicle Administration to suspend a vehicle's registration when the registered owner has:

- **Three or more unpaid speed-camera citations within a 90-day period**, or
- **\$500 or more in unpaid civil penalties** from speed-camera citations issued on MD 210.

The bill includes clear due-process protections, including notice, the opportunity for a hearing through MVA, and straightforward reinstatement once the overdue penalties and a modest administrative fee are paid. It also requires annual reporting to ensure transparency and legislative oversight.

Addressing Fairness and Due Process

A question often raised with automated speed enforcement is whether it is fair to hold a vehicle owner accountable when the owner was not the person driving at the time a citation was issued.

Maryland law already answers that question.

Speed-camera citations in Maryland are **civil and vehicle-based**, not criminal. Responsibility attaches to the registered owner because the owner is the only party with the legal authority to control who uses the vehicle. That framework has been in place for years and was reaffirmed by the General Assembly in 2020.

SB 206 does not punish someone without process, and it does not assign criminal guilt. It is a **safety and compliance measure**, applied only after repeated overdue violations and only after notice and an opportunity to be heard.

If the owner was not driving, that does not weaken the case for this bill. It strengthens it. The owner is the only person who can stop the pattern by restricting access to the vehicle, retraining drivers, or taking the vehicle off the road until compliance is achieved.

Why This Bill Is Needed

Under current law, a vehicle can rack up repeated speed-camera violations in a short period of time, pay nothing, and continue using MD 210 with no meaningful intervention. Fines alone are not changing behavior for these chronic cases.

SB 206 closes that gap. It aligns speed-camera enforcement with how Maryland already enforces other civil, vehicle-based obligations such as tolls and parking violations. It is targeted, proportional, and narrowly focused on one high-risk corridor.

Conclusion

SB 206 is not about punishment. It is about accountability, behavior change, and saving lives on one of Maryland's most dangerous roads.

I respectfully urge the Committee to give SB 206 a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Weiss

The Need for SB 206

The Problem: A small, but deadly, percentage of MD 210 drivers are not deterred by citations.

Repeat Offenders

2 of every 3 citations are issued to repeat offenders

Citations Issued	Offenders
2 to 5	18,104
6 to 10	2,209
11 to 19	737
20 to 29	149
30 to 39	67
40 to 49	24
50 to 59	20
60 to 100	20
101 to 150	8
200+	1
Total	21,339

And many are not even paying the fines they incur.

Only 46% Paid

Year	Month	Paid	%	Total
2024	Jul	3,006	53%	5,642
	Aug	5,917	47%	12,516
	Sep	2,798	43%	6,532
	Oct	5,363	53%	10,144
	Nov	3,363	51%	6,600
	Dec	3,416	53%	6,479
2025	Jan	3,072	51%	6,034
	Feb	1,957	49%	4,004
	Mar	3,034	48	6,348
	Apr	3,258	48%	6,790
	May	2,486	39%	6,384
	Jun	997	17%	5,795
	Jul	0	0%	1,499
Grand Total		38,667	46%	84,767

Why This Matters

Repeat offenders who ignore speed camera fines undermine the effectiveness of automated enforcement and continue to pose a threat to public safety. By making civil penalties enforceable through vehicle registration consequences—similar to how parking or toll violations are enforced—this bill ensures accountability without resorting to criminalization.