



Senate Bill 173

Vehicle Laws - Automated Enforcement - Reciprocal Agreements, Arrangements, and Declarations

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Judicial Proceedings Committee

Date: January 21, 2026

From: Sarah Sample

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 173. This bill authorizes the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administrator to establish reciprocal agreements with other jurisdictions for the enforcement of certain traffic safety violations. Under these arrangements, other states could delay the registration of a vehicle in their own jurisdiction until the owner pays the outstanding citations for violations on Maryland roadways.

More frequently than ever, horrific traffic accidents have claimed the lives or good health of Maryland residents. Vehicle drivers and passengers aren't the only ones in danger – pedestrians and cyclists alongside the roadways are also at risk of harm or death. Research has shown that penalties for violations have the potential to change behavior and drive down the number of citations over time.

Currently, all Maryland counties with red light and speed cameras have challenges with out-of-state citation compliance, seeing thousands of violations going unpaid. Counties believe, and research confirms, establishing these agreements that compel citation fulfillment through vehicle registration will promote adherence to traffic laws designed to keep residents and roadway users safe.

Not only does SB 173 hold reckless drivers accountable for behaviors that have led to a surge in the frequency and severity of incidents that are regularly putting residents at risk, but it sets a new standard of accountability and safety across the region. For these reasons, MACo **SUPPORTS** SB 173.