

2026 SB0115 Testimony For 2026-01-28.pdf

Uploaded by: Alan Lang

Position: FAV

Testimony For SB0115

Honorable Senators

Please enter a favorable report for SB0115.

I support

- Requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration to enter into an agreement or arrangement with Virginia to obtain information regarding motor vehicles owned by Maryland residents and improperly registered in Virginia;
- requiring the Administration to make the information available to State and local governments for certain automated speed enforcement purposes;
- increasing the penalties for the owners or drivers of certain improperly registered motor vehicles for violations recorded by automated speed enforcement systems

I believe it is an injustice that a large number of Maryland drivers are illegally obtaining Virginia tags to avoid paying our higher registration fees and to avoid paying any fees from automated red light and speed cameras.

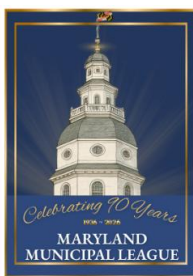
This bill would remedy this situation, so please enter a favorable report for SB0115.

Alan Lang
45 Marys Mount Road
Harwood, Maryland 20776
Legislative District 30B
410-336-9745
Alanlang1@verizon.net
January 26, 2026

SB 115 - MML - FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Bill Jorch

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY

COMMITTEE: Senate Judicial Proceedings

DATE: January 28, 2026

POSITION: Favorable

BILL: SB 115

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) supports Senate Bill 115, Motor Vehicles - Automated Speed Enforcement - Improper Registration.

SB 115 requires the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to enter into an agreement with the State of Virginia for the purpose of obtaining information on Maryland residents who improperly register their vehicle in Virginia. This information will then be made available to local governments to issue citations to these vehicle owners for speed camera violations.

This bill addresses two key issues, the first is promoting the full and proper vehicle registration of Maryland residents with MVA. The bill's provisions provide incentives for Maryland residents to register their vehicle properly in Maryland. More Marylanders registering their vehicle in Maryland ensures that those who use the system pay into it through registration fees and taxes, some of which go directly back to infrastructure maintenance.

The second key issue is that the bill offers local governments a tool to recoup delinquent speed camera fines from these "out of state" drivers. With contact information collected through the proposed agreement, local governments will have the opportunity to send citations to violators they previously could not contact. Due to the proximity of so much of our State to Virginia, this could close a potentially significant gap, capture lost revenue, and deter future violations.

For these reasons, the League respectfully requests that the committee provide Senate Bill 115 with a favorable report.

For more information relating to this piece of testimony, please contact:

Bill Jorch: Managing Director, Advocacy and Public Policy, billj@mdmunicipal.org

Roughly 10% of the State's lane miles are in municipalities, which make up less than 5% of the land area.

SB115.pdf

Uploaded by: Christopher West

Position: FAV

CHRIS WEST
Legislative District 42
Baltimore and Carroll Counties

Judicial Proceedings Committee



Annapolis Office
James Senate Office Building
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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

January 28, 2026

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

RE: Senate Bill 115 – Motor Vehicles – Automated Speed Enforcement – Improper Registration

Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

SB115 addresses a growing and dangerous problem involving the improper registration of motor vehicles by Maryland residents in Virginia and the consequential erosion of traffic safety enforcement in Maryland.

Currently, an estimated 111,000 vehicles owned by Maryland residents are registered in Virginia. Between 2023 and 2025 there were 14 fatal and over 7,000 non-fatal crashes in Maryland involving out-of-state plates, primarily Virginia plates. These numbers represent lives lost, families affected, and communities put in danger.

Current enforcement mechanisms are ineffective when drivers intentionally register vehicles out of state to avoid accountability. When vehicles with Maryland plates go through speed cameras at high rates of speed, the citations are sent to the Maryland vehicle owners, and if they don't pay them, the MVA will not permit them to obtain the updated tags at the time of required renewal. So the citations get paid, and Maryland drivers are motivated to drive safely. By contrast, when a vehicle with Virginia plates goes through a speed camera at a high rate of speed, the existing MVA system has no way to track down the owner, so no citation goes out. This means that the 111,000 Maryland drivers with Virginia tags can drive down Maryland's roads and highways with relative impunity, as fast as they want.

In the old days, Maryland officers would personally clock speeding cars and then chase them down or wave them over, but our police departments are badly understaffed these days. In Baltimore County alone, the police department has over 200 vacancies, with several hundred additional officers slated to reach retirement age shortly. Our police departments can't spare the manpower to set up speed traps these days because their officers are needed for more pressing

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ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

crime prevention work. So, drivers in vehicles bearing Virginia tags can rocket along our roads and highways with relative impunity.

This bill would require the Motor Vehicle Administration to enter into an agreement with the state of Virginia to obtain information regarding motor vehicles owned by Maryland residents that are improperly registered in Virginia. It further requires that this information be compiled into a searchable database and then made available to state and local governments for purposes of automated speed enforcement.

Once the database is readily available, state and local authorities will be able to send speeding citations to Maryland drivers with Virginia tags. Under the bill, these citations will impose considerably higher fines than fines routinely sent out to Maryland drivers with Maryland tags. The higher fines will serve two purposes. First, they will cover the extra costs associated with creating and using the new database, and second, they will give a strong financial incentive to Maryland residents registering their vehicles in Virginia to stop violating the law and instead re-registering their cars in Maryland.

SB115 provides a creative and commonsense solution to the problem of Maryland residents registering their vehicles in Virginia. It doesn't create new categories of enforcement; instead, it closes an existing loophole that allows a small but dangerous subset of drivers to inconsequentially repeatedly violate traffic laws. By facilitating communication with Virginia and raising penalties for improper registration, this bill promotes justice, accountability, and safety on Maryland roads.

I appreciate the Committee's consideration of Senate Bill 115 and will be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.

01-26-26 support of sb 0115.pdf

Uploaded by: John Becker

Position: FAV



SafeRoadsMD

**PLEASE SUPPORT SB0115
“Motor Vehicles – Automated
Speed Enforcement-Improper
Registration”**

**MARYLAND COALITION FOR ROADWAY SAFETY, INC.
URGES Maryland SENATE Judicial Proceedings COMMITTEE
SUPPORT SB 0115**

January 26, 2026

TO: Senator William C. Smith, Chair, Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair, and Bill Sponsor Senator West
Judicial Proceedings Committee
Maryland General Assembly
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

FROM: John Becker, Board Member
SafeRoadsMD - Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety, Inc.
(301) 852 9051, jb@saferoadsmd.org
SafeRoadsMD.org

Re: Request for a Favorable Review of SB 0115 – Motor Vehicles – Automated Speed Enforcement – Improper Registration

As a member of **SafeRoadsMD (Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety, Inc.)**, a statewide coalition of families, advocates, and professionals committed to reducing traffic deaths, serious injuries and crashes, this request is submitted for a favorable review of Senate Bill 0115.

There are vehicles registered in other states that should carry a Maryland registration. This bill deals specifically with those vehicles improperly registered in the state of Virginia.

Respectfully,

John Becker
Board Member
Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety, Inc.

cc: John Seng, Chair
Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety

SafeRoadsMD Supports SB 115.pdf

Uploaded by: John Seng

Position: FAV



SafeRoadsMD

PLEASE SUPPORT SB 115
“Motor Vehicles – Automated Speed
Enforcement – Improper Registration”

MARYLAND COALITION FOR ROADWAY SAFETY, INC.
URGES MD SENATE JPR COMMITTEE SUPPORT FOR SB 115

January 26, 2026

TO:

Honorable Senator William C. Smith, Chair
Honorable Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair
Judicial Proceedings Committee
Maryland General Assembly
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

FROM:

John Seng, Chair
SafeRoadsMD - Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety, Inc.
(202) 468-7682, JSeng@SafeRoadsMD.org
SafeRoadsMD.org

**Subject: Asking Your Support for SB 115 “Motor Vehicles – Automated Speed
Enforcement – Improper Registration”**

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher and Members of the Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I am writing to urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 115 and to express my strong support for its passage.

SB 115 addresses a problem that is both well known and deeply unfair: Maryland residents who deliberately register their vehicles in Virginia to avoid Maryland taxes, fees, and accountability—and then compound that misconduct by speeding on Maryland roads while assuming they can escape meaningful consequences.

This bill closes that loophole.

SB 115 requires the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration to work directly with the Commonwealth of Virginia to identify vehicles that are owned by Maryland residents but improperly registered in Virginia, and to make that information available for automated speed and work-zone enforcement only. That step alone restores basic fairness to a system that currently allows some drivers to game the rules while everyone else plays by them.

Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety, Inc.
2127 Regina Terrace, Clarksburg, MD 20871 (202) 468-7682

Just as important, SB 115 establishes **significantly higher penalties** when those improperly registered vehicles are caught speeding by automated enforcement. These are not small increases. They are **intentional, deterrent-level fines** that reflect the seriousness of both the speeding violation and the underlying registration fraud. In work zones—where lives are directly at risk—the penalties are even stronger, and rightly so.

The bill is **carefully drafted and narrowly targeted**:

- It does not create new cameras.
- It does not lower enforcement thresholds.
- It does not expand surveillance.
- It applies only to Maryland residents who have knowingly chosen to improperly register their vehicles out of state.

SB 115 also improves transparency and due process by requiring clearer notice to drivers, explicitly warning them that failure to comply may lead to registration refusal or suspension—and that driving without proper registration is itself a separate violation of Maryland law.

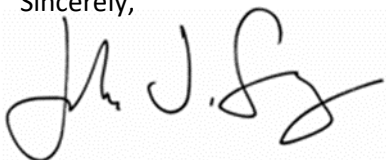
At its core, SB 115 is about accountability and equity. Law-abiding Maryland drivers should not be subsidizing or endangered by those who intentionally evade the system. Automated enforcement only works if it applies evenly. When a loophole allows some drivers to avoid consequences entirely, it undermines respect for the law and weakens safety for everyone.

SB 115 restores balance. It reinforces that **speeding is serious**, that **registration fraud is not tolerated**, and that Maryland will not allow dangerous behavior to be shielded by a license plate from another state.

I respectfully urge the Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a **favorable report on SB 115** and move this important public-safety and fairness measure forward.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to safer Maryland roads.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. Seng". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being the most prominent part.

John J. Seng
Chair
Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety, Inc.

cc: Sen. West; SafeRoadsMD Board Members

SB0115-JPR-FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Nina Themelis

Position: FAV



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

SB 0115

January 28, 2026

TO: Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

RE: Senate Bill 0115 – Motor Vehicles – Automated Speed Enforcement – Improper Registration

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 0115.

SB 0115 would establish a higher set of speed camera fines for vehicles improperly registered in Virginia by Maryland residents. The growing issue of improper vehicle registrations makes it harder for jurisdictions to hold drivers accountable for unsafe driving behavior. This legislation would deter Maryland residents with Virginia plates from speeding on Maryland's roads. Paired with other legislation aimed at entering into reciprocal enforcement agreements, this could encourage drivers to comply with registration requirements while curbing dangerous behavior.

The Baltimore City Administration supports SB 0115 and considers it to be a meaningful tool to improve compliance with speed camera enforcement. If implemented, the bill could improve identification of repeat offenders and strengthen the enforceability of citations against improperly registered vehicles. For context—of the 545,073 speed camera citations issued by Baltimore City in 2025, 69,667 (or 12.8%) were attributable to Virginia license plates. This is an increase from 2024, when vehicles registered in Virginia comprised 60,948 (10.2%) of the City's 595,552 speed camera citations.

Speeding remains a leading cause of crashes and traffic fatalities. Implementing higher fines and facilitating access to improper vehicle registration data would assist jurisdictions in their speed enforcement efforts, helping to protect all road users.

For the above stated reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **favorable** report on SB 0115.

FINAL AAA Testimony in Support of SB 115 - Motor V

Uploaded by: Ragina Ali

Position: FAV



AAA's Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 115 Motor Vehicles - Automated Speed Enforcement - Improper Registration

Sponsor: Senator West

- **AAA supports SB 115 - Motor Vehicles - Automated Speed Enforcement - Improper Registration**, which increases civil penalties for speed limit violations recorded by automated enforcement systems when the vehicle owner is a Maryland resident with a vehicle improperly registered in Virginia.
- The issue of Maryland drivers registering vehicles in Virginia has reached crisis proportions, impacting both Maryland's economy and public safety. Recent data demonstrates the severity.
- A 2024 *Report of the Public Safety, Transportation, and Environment Subcommittee To the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee*, cited **nearly 34,000 Maryland addresses linked to vehicles registered in Virginia** in early 2024, showing that the issue has been persistent for years.
- The Maryland Department of Transportation reported 101,212 Maryland vehicles registered in Virginia in November 2023, increasing to 111,102 by June 2024
- Baltimore City alone recorded 14 fatal crashes involving Virginia-registered vehicles between 2023 and 2024—approximately 10% of the city's total fatal crashes.
- A 2024 Bikemore report found that 10 "super speeders" in Baltimore accumulated 1,117 speed camera citations, owing more than \$81,000 in unpaid fines. Six of these 10 vehicles had Virginia tags.
- AAA has championed automated speed enforcement in Maryland since 2005, working with the legislature to launch Maryland's first pilot program in Montgomery County residential areas and school zones. We believe automated enforcement, when part of a comprehensive traffic safety strategy, effectively changes driver behavior.
- SB 115 is a critical step toward closing the loophole that allows Maryland residents to circumvent state laws and evade traffic safety enforcement. AAA recognizes the essential role automated enforcement plays in protecting lives and respectfully urges the Committee to issue a **favorable report** on SB 115.

Contacts:

*Ragina C. Ali, AAA Club Alliance
Public and Government Affairs Manager
443.465.5020*

*Marty Lostrom, GS Proctor & Associates
Associate
202.368.3859*

MCPA - MSA SB 115 - Out-of-State Vehicles - Impro

Uploaded by: Samira Jackson

Position: FAV



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chair and
Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Darren Popkin, Executive Director, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Samira Jackson, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: January 28, 2026

RE: **SB 115 - Motor Vehicles - Automated Speed Enforcement - Improper
Registration**

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT SB 115**. This bill strengthens Maryland's automated speed enforcement system by ensuring Maryland residents cannot avoid accountability by registering their vehicles in Virginia.

SB 115 strengthens Maryland's automated speed enforcement system by requiring the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration to enter a data-sharing agreement with the Commonwealth of Virginia, the bill closes a longstanding enforcement gap and ensures that State and local agencies have access to accurate vehicle registration information for issuing citations.

The bill also increases civil penalties for speed camera and work zone violations committed by improperly registered vehicles, creating an effective deterrent against both unsafe driving and improper out-of-state registration. SB115 promotes fairness, enhances roadway safety, and ensures that all drivers are subject to the same accountability standards, regardless of where they choose to register their vehicles.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT SB 115** and urge a **FAVORABLE** committee report.

SB0115 - LOI - MVA – Motor Vehicles - Automated Sp

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: INFO

January 28, 2026

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

RE: Letter of Information – Senate Bill 115 – Motor Vehicles – Automated Speed Enforcement – Improper Registration

Dear Chair Smith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on Senate Bill 115 but offers the following information for the Committee’s consideration.

SB 115 requires the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to enter into a long-term agreement with the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) in order to routinely obtain updated information on vehicles owned by Maryland residents that are improperly registered in Virginia. Further, the MVA must share the information in a database available to State entities and local Maryland jurisdictions to support the automated enforcement provisions of the bill.

Having a vehicle registered in Virginia while a resident of Maryland is a direct violation of Transportation Article § 13-401 - § 13-403. The MVA currently works with the Virginia DMV to obtain information on Maryland owned vehicles registered in the Commonwealth. The MVA files a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request with the Virginia DMV, who then processes and shares the information with the MVA. The MVA reviews the data and compares it against MVA records to determine likely violators of Maryland’s vehicle registration laws. However, any enforcement action to compel the owner to adhere to Maryland vehicle registration laws first requires physical verification that the vehicle owner is out of compliance.

The MVA is unable to place administrative flags on out-of-state vehicles. For Maryland-registered vehicles, a moving violation issued through automated traffic enforcement may be reported by an issuing jurisdiction to the MVA, which can flag the vehicle record. This flag prevents registration renewal and results in an additional \$30 administrative flag fee owed to the MVA. The lack of similar authority for vehicles that are registered out-of-state can pose a risk of lower collection rates with growing liabilities against an owner. Further, the drivers are not effectively held accountable for their driving violations, and the lack of strong consequences fails to correct the negative driving behaviors which ultimately makes Maryland roads less safe. MDOT has submitted legislation for the 2026 session that would authorize the MVA Administrator to enter into interjurisdictional enforcement agreements for past-due speed and red light camera citations to address this.

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Page Two

Further, the MVA obtains this information from the Virginia DMV through partnership and established relationships. There is a possibility that the Virginia DMV will require local jurisdictions to pursue this data directly with their own FOIA requests. If such circumstances arise, the local jurisdiction may coordinate with the MVA for data processing and to identify potential violators.

The MVA will continue outreach to Maryland residents about State law with direct correspondence, public education campaigns, and working with the General Assembly to reduce the number of improperly registered vehicles in out-of-state jurisdictions. The MVA is committed to working with the sponsor and the committee to develop policy solutions that directly address this important matter and our shared goals in stemming the flow of improperly registered vehicles in the State.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the committee consider this information during its deliberation of Senate Bill 115.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine E. Nizer
Administrator
Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration
410-787-7830

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