



Motor Vehicles – Speed Monitoring Systems – Penalties
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Washington Area Bicyclist Association – FAVORABLE

January 22, 2025

Chair Smith and Committee Members,

The Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) supports SB 118, establishing graduated speed enforcement camera fines that increase as the speed of the cited vehicle increases.

Reckless and negligent driving takes a terrible toll on Maryland residents and visitors. Maryland experienced 553 road fatalities in 2024, 90 of them speed related. This carnage must end.

Traffic enforcement – if penalties are sufficient to provide an effective deterrent – is a key tool in taming reckless and distracted driving and speeding in particular.

Speed kills. According to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), "Studies clearly show that higher speeds result in greater impact at the time of a crash, which leads to more severe injuries and fatalities." But current speed-camera enforcement fines are too low to provide an effective deterrent.

The Maryland Road Worker Protection Act of 2024 established graduated speed-camera fines for work-zone speeding. Noting that bill as a precedent, WABA urges that you advance SB 118.

We further note that automated enforcement is far more equitable – and inexpensive and scalable – than in-person police enforcement, with no potential for dangerous escalation of traffic stops or discrimination against Black and brown drivers. This said, traffic enforcement is no substitute for investment in transportation infrastructure that is safe for pedestrians, bicyclists, and rollers.

Please advance SB 118 – and continue to invest in safe pedestrian, bicyclist, and transit infrastructure – to make Maryland transportation safer and more equitable for all.

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