



House Bill 1408

Motor Vehicles - Automated Traffic Enforcement Systems - Impoundment

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Environment and Transportation
Committee

Date: March 5, 2026

From: Sarah Sample

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 1408. This bill authorizes a law enforcement agency to impound a vehicle for which three or more unpaid citations from an automated traffic enforcement system have been issued. Public safety is enhanced by all motorists being subject to enforcement, and this bill provides one more tool for local agencies to use while encouraging motorist accountability.

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 and additional consequences for violations have the potential to change behavior and drive down the number of citations over time.

Currently, all Maryland counties with automated enforcement have some challenges with citation compliance for certain drivers who are habitually delinquent. This means thousands of violations go unpaid while those individuals can continue a dangerous pattern of negligence. Counties believe, and research confirms, ensuring accountability can promote safety. The provisions of HB 1408 have the potential to compel drivers who are committing regular violations to make a concerted effort to change their behavior or risk the temporary loss of their vehicle. This has the potential to promote adherence to traffic safety laws and can encourage behavior designed to keep residents and roadway users safe.

HB 1408 creates an additional pathway to 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. This change bolsters a new standard of accountability and safety across the region. For these reasons, MACo **SUPPORTS** HB 1408 and requests a **FAVORABLE** report.