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**Sponsor Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 46 -  
*Red Light Camera Tag Suspension Repeal***

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House Bill 46 would repeal the provision that authorizes suspension of vehicle registrations for red light camera debt. The ability to flag a registration for non-renewal would remain.

HB46 arose out of the Joint Committee on Federal Relations, which held a briefing on interstate enforcement of traffic and toll debt.

There are three reasons why HB46 makes sense:.

First, suspending a vehicle registration over minor traffic debt is poor policy. Tag suspension can result in unintended, disproportionate consequences, including arrest in some circumstances.

Second, Maryland is an outlier. According to the Department of Legislative Services, many states allow red light cameras, but Maryland is the only state that allows tags suspensions for this reason (see map).

Finally, this provision is unneeded and unused. Flagging for non-renewal is a highly effective means of collecting minor traffic debt. According to Chrissy Nizer of the MVA, there were zero tag suspensions in Maryland for red light camera debt in 2017 and 2018. Passage of HB46 will essentially codify the current practice.

For these reasons, I ask for your favorable report.

