



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 177

Motor Vehicle Administration - Authority to Suspend Registration for Violations Recorded by Traffic Control Signal Monitoring Systems - Repeal

Judicial Proceedings Committee

January 28, 2020

Submitted by Stacey Jefferson and Margo Quinlan, Co-Chairs

Member Agencies:

Advocates for Children and Youth

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Behavioral Health System Baltimore

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Marylanders Against Poverty

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Marylanders Against Poverty (MAP) supports SB 177, which prevents the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) from suspending vehicle registration if the driver does not pay the violation recorded by a traffic control signal monitoring system.

A traffic control signal monitoring system is commonly known as a red light camera. These cameras record violations and issue a civil penalty up to \$100. If the civil penalty is not paid, the local jurisdiction can request to the MVA that the vehicle's registration be suspended. An additional administrative flag fee is added to the balance.

Currently, the red light cameras are not in every jurisdiction. This means that some Maryland drivers have a higher chance of entering this punitive system than others. Suspending a vehicle's registration could hinder many low-income drivers from going to work. This will make it harder for them to pay the penalty. It will also make it harder for low income drivers to have reliable and accessible transportation.

The current practice creates more barriers for low income drivers, which in turn makes it more difficult for low income people to achieve financial stability.

MAP appreciates your consideration, and urges a favorable report on SB 177.