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Legislative District 18
Montgomery County

Health and Government Operations
Committee

Subcommittees

Insurance and Pharmaceuticals
Health Occupations and
Long-Term Care

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The Maryland House of Delegates
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Sponsor Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 346
Vehicle Laws - Failure to Pay Video Toll - Penalties
Before the Environment & Transportation Committee
January 14, 2021

House Bill 346 is identical to HB38 which passed the House of Delegates in 2020 thanks to the good work of this committee. Under the bill, suspension of a vehicle registration for video toll debt would no longer be permissible, but flagging for non-renewal would still be allowed.

Suspending vehicle registration for video toll debt contributes to the criminalization of poverty. Maryland is an outlier in allowing this practice. A better practice, used successfully in many states, is to simply flag the registration for non-renewal.

Before 2020, this issue disproportionately affected Montgomery & Prince George's Counties because of the large number of video tolls on the ICC, Maryland's first cashless toll road. But, in 2020, MDTA went fully cashless on all toll facilities. The resulting increase in video toll transactions increases the urgency and makes this more of a statewide issue.

I ask for your favorable report.