



## House Bill 1365

### *Vehicle Laws – Speed Monitoring Systems – Operation in School Zones (Truth in Speed Cameras Act of 2018)*

MACo Position: **OPPOSE**

Date: March 2, 2018

To: Environment and Transportation Committee

From: Leslie Knapp, Jr.

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **OPPOSES** HB 1365. The bill would impose unreasonable, costly, and unnecessary requirements on school zone speed camera programs.

HB 1365 would limit the use of a school zone speed camera from 1 hour before to 1 hour after instructional hours on days when school is in session. This Committee has considered and rejected limiting the hours of operation in such a manner. The current Monday through Friday, 6:00 am to 8:00 pm, operational time is consistent and easy-to-understand. The current rule incorporates the primary times when most school and after-school activities occur. HB 1365's language would create a confusing patchwork, as different jurisdictions' schools operate on different schedules and may be closed at different times for in-service or training days.

Current law provides for rational criteria as to where speed cameras can be located within a school zone: road segments where students are walking and bicycling to or from school or where they are being picked up or dropped off by school vehicles. However, this bill would narrowly and illogically restrict speed cameras to a highway that fronts the main entrance of the school or the entrance that experiences the greatest amount of student and bus traffic. The school itself may not be the location where speeding poses the greatest risk to students, which is why the current law covers areas where the students may be traveling to and from the school.

The bill also requires that if a local jurisdiction has a school zone speed camera program, each school zone sign must be next to a device that displays a real-time posting of the speed at which the driver is traveling. This is costly and unnecessary. Current law already requires specific signage that is compliant with State Highway Administration standards. Drivers are provided with reasonable notice to check their speed.

HB 1365 is unnecessary and would significantly undermine local school zone speed camera programs and reduce the safety benefits they provide to students. Accordingly, MACo requests the Committee give HB 1365 an **UNFAVORABLE** report.