



Senate Bill 319

Vehicle Laws - Move Over Safety Monitoring System - Authorization

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Judicial Proceedings Committee

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The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 319 as it provides counties with a tool to enforce public safety laws and to protect first responders and community members.

SB 319 authorizes the use of “move over safety monitoring systems” and establishes a regulatory framework to govern use of the systems. The systems help capture visual evidence of a violation of the State’s required safety protection and move over laws. The former requires drivers to yield the right-of-way to an approaching emergency vehicle by pulling over to the curb of the roadway to clear the intersection. The latter requires drivers approaching a stopped emergency vehicle to slow down and/or make a lane change into a non-adjacent lane under certain conditions and where practicable.

The bill enables counties to deploy the systems on emergency vehicles which include law enforcement, ambulances, fire, and other rescue vehicles. Counties can use these systems to help protect the safety of their first responders and those they are aiding by catching video evidence of violators and subjecting them accordingly to fines. The systems provide the benefits of penalizing violators and deterring people from violating the laws. Fines collected from the violations may be used for the administration of the program and any remaining moneys must be used for public safety programs.

SB 319 would help counties identify and hold accountable violators of the state’s laws designed to protect first responders and those they are assisting while on the road. For these reasons, MACo urges a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 319.