

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2022 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Preliminary**

MC 18-22

(Montgomery County Delegation)

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**Montgomery County - Automated Traffic Enforcement - Implementing Agency**  
**MC 18-22**

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This proposed bill authorizes Montgomery County to designate the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT), in lieu of the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD), to implement the county's (1) traffic control signal monitoring systems (red light cameras); (2) school bus monitoring cameras; (3) speed monitoring systems (speed cameras); and (4) work zone speed cameras. The proposed bill establishes these new authorizations under essentially the same parameters as those that exist for law enforcement agencies under current law.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The proposed bill would likely not materially affect State finances or operations.

**Local Effect:** If Montgomery County designates MCDOT as the agency that implements automated enforcement programs in the county, local government expenditures would shift from MCPD to MCDOT, as discussed below. Assuming enforcement and citations continue at similar levels, local automated enforcement revenues for Montgomery County would likely not be materially affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Generally, the implementation of red light camera, school bus camera, speed camera, and work zone speed camera systems is handled by State and local

law enforcement agencies. Depending on the type of automated enforcement, the criteria for what constitutes a “law enforcement agency” vary.

For purposes of implementing red light camera, school bus camera, and speed camera systems, “law enforcement agency” refers to a law enforcement agency of a local political subdivision that is authorized to issue a citation for a violation of the Maryland Vehicle Law (or of local traffic laws or regulations). However, for purposes of work zone speed camera enforcement, a “local police department” refers to (1) the police department of a municipal corporation; (2) the county police department; and (3) the sheriff’s department of any county that has highway traffic patrol responsibilities.

The exact responsibilities for implementing agencies vary by the type of automated enforcement system, but, generally, such agencies are responsible for processing, verifying, and mailing citations, among other things.

**Local Expenditures:** Assuming Montgomery County exercises the authority granted by the proposed bill, the process for receiving, reviewing, and sending violations could be transferred entirely from one county department to another. Although the overall level of resources needed to operate the county’s automated enforcement programs at current levels would presumably be unaffected by the proposed bill, the county could nevertheless need to shift resources, such as personnel, and related ongoing funding from MCPD to MCDOT if MCDOT were designated by the county as the implementing agency. A transfer of authority could also involve one-time costs (*e.g.*, training staff on automated enforcement system requirements). However, Montgomery County advised for a prior version of the proposed bill that the exact impact of such a transfer could not be determined.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** HB 564 of 2021, a nearly identical bill, passed the House and was heard by the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, where no further action was taken.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Montgomery County; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:**  
efp/ljm

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