

BILL: House Bill 475
TITLE: Speed Monitoring Systems in School Zones – Operation Times - Limitation
DATE: February 4, 2021
POSITION: OPPOSE
COMMITTEE: Environment and Transportation
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The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), representing all of the State's boards of education, opposes House Bill 475.

This bill would amend the law to limit the operation of speed monitoring systems in school zones to the regular school year. MABE opposes adopting this limitation in light of not only the longstanding practices of providing summer school and even year-round schooling at certain schools within public school systems, but also the anticipated expansion of summer school programs throughout the State in response to the detrimental educational impacts of the COVID pandemic.

MABE strongly supports efforts to enhance student safety in the critically important areas of providing safe modes of student transportation to and from school, the enforcement of laws intended to ensure student safety during the loading and unloading of school buses, and laws governing speed monitoring systems in school zones. MABE opposes House Bill 475 based on the concern that a foreseeable outcome would be the lessening of the standard of care and enforcement measures available to ensure student safety in the vicinity of schools outside the regular school year – months in which students and families should continue to be able to rely on the safety provided by speed monitoring systems in school zones.

For these reasons, MABE requests an unfavorable report on House Bill 475.