

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

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**Meeting Date:** 10/9/2001

**Reference No.:** CB-18-2001

**Proposer:** Hendershot

**Draft No.:** 2

**Sponsors:** Hendershot

**Item Title:** An Act requiring the installation and use of driver safety systems in each taxicab licensed by the County

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**Drafter:** Ralph E. Grutzmacher  
Legislative Officer

**Resource** Carol B. White  
**Personnel:** Legislative Aide

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**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:**

**Date Presented:** 3/27/2001

**Executive Action:** \_\_/\_\_/\_\_\_\_ \_\_

**Committee Referral:** 3/27/2001 PSFM

**Effective Date:** \_\_/\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Committee Action:** 7/5/2001 FAV(A)

**Date Introduced:** 10/9/2001

**Public Hearing:** 11/6/2001 1:30 P.M.

**Council Action:** \_\_/\_\_/\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

**Council Votes:** RVR:\_\_, DB:\_\_, JE:\_\_, IG:\_\_, TH:\_\_, WM:\_\_, AS:\_\_, PS:\_\_, MW:\_\_

**Pass/Fail:** \_\_

**Remarks:** \_\_\_\_\_

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11/6/2001: Motion to enact failed for lack of a second

**PUBLIC SAFETY & FISCAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**      Date: 7/5/01

Committee Vote: Favorable as amended, 3-0-1, (In Favor: Councilmembers Scott, Maloney and Shapiro. Abstained: Bailey).

This bill will require the installation and use of driver safety systems in taxicabs licensed by the County. Each taxicab shall be equipped with one of the following driver safety systems: (1) a shield, (2) a camera recording system, or (3) a driver-operated flashing light.

Upon the showing of an economic hardship by the holder of the certificate, the Director of Environmental Resources shall loan, from County funds, the cost to purchase and install the required or alternative driver safety device and the loan is to be repaid to the County in no more than twelve

months.

The legislation was amended on page 3, lines 26-30 and page 4, lines 1-14.

There will be a negative fiscal impact on the County related to the amount of interest lost on the loan.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION/FISCAL IMPACT**

**(Includes reason for proposal, as well as any unique statutory requirements)**

Because taxicabs generally operate on a cash basis, drivers are targets for robbery and are subject to battery during the course of a robbery, often resulting in death or injury. The proposed legislation provides for the purchase of camera recording devices by the County, for installation in each taxicab, to deter robbery or to assist in the arrest and conviction of persons who rob or injure taxicab drivers. Such camera systems are in use in Houston, Texas. Both Washington, D.C. and New York City have recently authorized camera systems in lieu of mandatory shields.

There are at least 4 known manufacturers of still camera systems offered for sale in the U. S., with additional manufacturers offering systems for use in Europe. The total cost of each system will not exceed \$700 and total costs for the entire fleet of 775 authorized taxicab certificates will not exceed \$542,500. This one-time cost will be offset by reduced costs associated with deterred or avoided criminal activity and reduced costs to the criminal justice system for investigation of criminal activity and the prosecution of criminal offenders.

### **CODE INDEX TOPICS:**