

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2022 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CB-010-2022

Draft No.: 1

Committee: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Date: 3/17/2022

Action: FAV

REPORT:

Committee Vote: Favorable 10-0 (In favor: Council Members, Hawkins, Burroughs, Davis, Dernoga, Franklin, Glaros, Ivey, Streeter, Taveras and Turner).

The Committee of the Whole convened on March 17, 2022, to discuss CB-10-2022, which updates the County Code regarding fines for school bus camera violations. Specifically, the legislation changes the amount which may be paid by any person choosing to prepay the civil penalty without appearing in the District Court of Maryland. CB-010- 2022 modifies the civil penalty reflected in the County Code for violations relating to overtaking and passing school vehicles from one hundred fifty dollars (\$150) to two hundred fifty dollars (\$250). Additionally, language is included that references the District Court of Maryland Administrative Regulation for any subsequent revisions to the penalty amount.

In May 2013, the Council adopted CB-013-2013, which established Sec. 26-120.1., Authority to install and utilize school bus cameras, of the County Code. As such, Prince George's County was authorized to implement a school bus monitoring camera program to help regulate traffic. In concert with State law, the Chief of Police, in consultation with the Board of Education, is authorized to install, operate, and maintain school bus monitoring cameras on school buses. At the time of adoption, a person who committed a violation recorded by a school bus monitoring camera was subject to a civil penalty of One Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$150.00).

State law authorizes the District Court to prescribe the civil penalty fine schedule for those persons who choose to prepay the civil penalty without appearing in District Court. In 2017, the District Court increased the penalty to Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00). The County's school bus program has been charging \$250 for the violation, in accordance with the most current regulation promulgated by the District Court. There are currently 1,289 school bus cameras in operation within the County. The entire Prince George's County Public School (PGCPS) fleet was outfitted with cameras in 2020. CB-10-2022 updates the County Code with the \$250 prepayment amount and includes a reference to the District Court of Maryland Administrative Regulation regarding any future revisions.

After the discussion, the Committee voted favorably on CB-10-2022 by a vote of 10-0.