

Resolution No.: 17-1080
Introduced: May 6, 2014
Adopted: May 13, 2014

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

By: The Public Safety Committee and the Education Committee,
and Councilmembers Floreen, Leventhal, Navarro, and Riemer

SUBJECT: Resolution to urge the Chief Judge for the District Court of Maryland to increase the fine for violations recorded by a school bus safety camera

Background

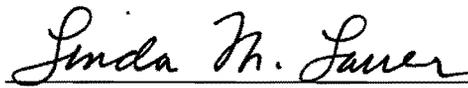
1. State law prohibits drivers from passing school buses when a school vehicle has stopped on a roadway and is operating its flashing red lights. State law also authorizes local jurisdictions to enact local law to implement a school bus safety camera monitoring program.
2. In March 2012, the County Council passed legislation to implement a school bus safety camera program. The Montgomery County Police Department and the Montgomery County Public Schools worked together to implement this program beginning in January, 2014.
3. In the first four months of operation, the school bus safety camera program has recorded and issued a total of 375 citations.
4. State law allows the civil penalty for violating this law to be a maximum of \$250.
5. The Chief Judge of the District Court of Maryland has set the civil penalty for violation at \$125.
6. The Public Safety Committee and the Education Committee met on April 28 to review proposed Executive Regulation 18-13, School Bus Safety Cameras. This regulation specifies that the penalty for violation will be \$125, as required by the District Court.
7. Given the potentially dire consequences of drivers violating the school bus safety law and the overall importance of school bus safety to keeping the County's children safe, the Public Safety Committee and the Education Committee expressed concern that the \$125 penalty is too low. The Committees expressed their view that the penalty should be raised as a greater deterrent for drivers, possibly up to the \$250 maximum amount allowed by State law.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following action:

The County Council urges the Chief Judge of the District Court of Maryland to raise the civil penalty for violation of State Transportation Article section 21-706, and to consider whether a higher penalty, possibly up to the \$250 maximum amount, would better reflect the serious nature of this violation and further deter drivers from passing a stopped school bus in violation of State law.

This is a correct copy of Council action.



Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council