



AAA Mid-Atlantic's Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 702 Vehicle Laws - Rules of the Road - Lane Changes

Sponsor: Delegate Malone

- AAA Mid-Atlantic **supports** [HB 702](#), which requires motorists to signal when changing lanes. It authorizes a driver to move from a lane or from a shoulder or bikeway into a lane only when the driver has reasonably determined that such a maneuver is safe and has activated the appropriate turn signal.
- Unsafe lane changing is a behavior associated with aggressive driving. Aggressive driving may consist of any unsafe driving behavior, performed deliberately and with ill intention or disregard for safety. Examples include erratic lane changing, illegal passing and tailgating.
- According to the District Court, in fiscal year 2019, there were 10,204 citations issued in Maryland for unsafe lane changes, 850 citations issued for turning without giving the appropriate signal, and 682 citations issued for failure to signal continuously before turning.
- A AAA Foundation For Traffic Safety review of aggressive driving reported that potentially aggressive actions, including improper or erratic lane changes, are a factor in up to 56% of fatal crashes. Another study by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) similarly found that nearly one-third of all motor vehicle collisions and two-thirds of all automobile-related fatalities involve aggressive driving, which includes unsafe lane changes.
- Before changing lanes drivers should always ensure that it is safe to do so by using proper turn signals, confirming enough space is available, using the rearview mirror and checking for blind spots.
- AAA Mid-Atlantic supports this measure, and the positive traffic safety implications it could yield on Maryland roads. We respectfully urge the Committee to give **HB 702** a favorable report.

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