



## AAA Mid-Atlantic's Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 319 Vehicle Laws - Move Over Safety Monitoring System - Authorization

*Sponsor: Senator Bailey*

- AAA Mid-Atlantic **supports SB 319**, which, as drafted, would authorize a State or local law enforcement agency and State or local volunteer fire company, rescue squad, fire department, and ambulance service to place a move over safety monitoring system on, or integrate a move over safety monitoring system into, an emergency vehicle for the purpose of recording a motor vehicle committing a violation relating to the operation of a motor vehicle on approach of an emergency vehicle; providing a certain recorded image is admissible in a proceeding concerning a certain civil citation.
- Move-over laws require motorists traveling on multi-lane roadways to, when practical and safe, to merge away from a vehicle working on the side of the highway to provide an empty travel lane of safety for the worker. If not practical (either due to traffic volume or road design), the motorist must slow significantly below the posted speed limit while passing the emergency personnel.
- Emergency responders and roadside workers put themselves at risk every day to help people who are in need of emergency assistance or whose vehicles are broken down. Despite having the laws, we are still losing law enforcement officers, tow truck operators and others as they conduct business on the roadways.
- On Nov. 9, 2019, a tow truck driver who was assisting a AAA member was killed in a fatal hit-and-run crash in Temple Hills.
- The move over safety monitoring system would serve as another mechanism to help keep emergency responders safe while they are working at the roadside. As written, a person who commits a violation of a move over law that is captured by a move over safety monitoring system would receive a \$100 ticket.
- AAA supports the legislation, but with two amendments. AAA believes when introducing new automated enforcement technology for the first time in a state, a pilot program should be conducted.
- In addition, AAA supports automated enforcement when there are strict evidentiary standards in place to assure the fairness of procedures for issuing automated enforcement citations. As written, the bill only requires a "duly authorized agent of a law enforcement agency" to review each ticket. AAA would like the program to require a sworn law enforcement officer to review and approve each ticket.
- If enacted and signed into law, SB 319 would take effect June 1, 2020. AAA **supports SB 319 with amendments**, and we respectfully urge the Committee to render a favorable report.

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