



## AAA Mid-Atlantic's Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 762 Task Force to Study Impaired Driving and New Technologies

*Sponsors: Delegate Williams*

- AAA Mid-Atlantic supports **HB 762**, which establishes a **Task Force to Study Impaired Driving and New Technologies**.
- Because the Task Force would review national best practices in combatting impaired driving, as well as determine if there are measures that have been successful in other states that may work in Maryland, we are supportive of this legislation.
- Unfortunately, despite of all the strides that have been made, drunk and drugged driving continues to plague Maryland and our nation, despite being a totally preventable crime.
- According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), nationally, “in 2018 there were 10,511 fatalities in motor vehicle traffic crashes in which at least one driver had a BAC of .08 or higher. This totaled 29 percent of all traffic fatalities for the year.”
- In Maryland during 2017, there were 188 fatalities due to crashes involving a drunk or drugged driver, and over 3,200 persons were injured.
- AAA supports research that addresses technologies to detect and successfully test for driver impairment, giving law enforcement stronger tools in their tool box to aid in keeping drunk and drugged drivers off our roads.
- We are particularly in favor of further research of Driver Alcohol Detection Systems for Safety (DADSS) or similar technologies which can passively and unobtrusively detect the blood alcohol content (BAC) of a vehicle's driver and prevent the vehicle from starting if the BAC is above the legal limit.
- AAA is also very supportive of efforts to improve knowledge on drug-impaired driving, including drug testing of fatally-injured drivers, more accurate reporting of drug impairment in crashes, and the development of standard protocols or procedures for forensic toxicology laboratories supporting driving under the influence of drugs (DUID) investigations.
- AAA supports efforts to combat impaired driving. Therefore, we request a favorable report for **HB 762** and respectfully request to be considered for membership on the Task Force, as a traffic safety advocacy group, representing nearly 988,000 Marylanders.

**Contacts:**

*Ragina C. Ali, AAA Mid-Atlantic  
Public and Government Affairs Manager  
410.616.1900 ext.43-61152*

*Sherrie Sims, G.S. Proctor & Assoc.  
Senior State Associate  
410.733.7171*