

Bill Number: HB762
Scott D. Shellenberger, State's Attorney for Baltimore County
Support

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF SCOTT D. SHELLENBERGER,
STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY,
IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 762
TASK FORCE TO STUDY IMPAIRED DRIVING AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES

I write in support of House Bill 762 that would form a task force to study impaired driving in the state and whether new technologies can be applied to testing for those impairments.

Most jurisdictions have seen an increase in the number of impaired traffic cases where there is the presence of drugs. The number of accidents in Baltimore County where there is a combination of low levels of alcohol with the presence of marijuana has been on the rise. We have also seen an increase of cases where it is likely marijuana is the substance effecting the persons driving.

The problem with the presence of marijuana in traffic cases is there is no real quantifiable test to determine the drugs effect on driving. While some blood tests can test for the presence of marijuana, quantifying it is difficult.

A task force to study these more recent trends will be important particularly as Maryland contemplates legalizing marijuana. We as a state must get ahead of this current and likely future issue by exploring the new technologies that may be out there.

I urge a favorable report of House Bill 762.