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POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

BILL: SB 465 - Criminal Law –Vehicle Laws–Licenses and Permits – Prohibited Acts

FROM: Maryland Office of the Public Defender

POSITION: Favorable

DATE: 02/16/2022

The Maryland Office of the Public Defender respectfully requests that the Judiciary Committee issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 465. This bill removes an overly broad provision in the current statute that has led to confusion and abuse.

That provision encompasses any action or failure to act forbidden by any other section of the Transportation Article. Almost by definition, it duplicates other parts of the code, each of which carries its own penalty. Its inclusion here, however, in Section 16-301 can leave someone who commits some other action facing a more severe penalty, including the imposition of 12 points, an amount that can imperil their license status.

The Maryland Office of the Public Defender appreciates and supports efforts that will better define and clarify Maryland's traffic laws. Senate Bill 465 does that.

For these reasons, the Maryland Office of the Public Defender urges this Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 465.

Submitted by: Government Relations Division of the Maryland Office of the Public Defender.