



Wes Moore
Governor
Aruna Miller
Lieutenant Governor
Paul J. Wiedefeld
Secretary

February 15, 2024

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee
251 House Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401

Re: *Letter of Support – House Bill 601 – Street Racing and Exhibition Driving - Prohibited Acts, Enforcement, and Penalties*

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) strongly supports House Bill 601 as a strategy to deter dangerous driving behavior and help the State achieve its goal of zero motor vehicle-related fatalities or serious injuries by 2030 on our roadways.

House Bill 601 proposes to establish penalties and points assessments for motor vehicle violations related to participation in a race or speed contest. Some of these penalties include prohibiting a person from engaging in exhibition driving on any highway or private property that is used for driving by the public; and establishing certain affirmative defenses to a charge of exhibition driving.

MDOT supports House Bill 601, as it stands as a crucial step towards safeguarding our communities by enhancing public safety measures. By promoting accountability and discouraging dangerous driving behavior, House Bill 601 seeks to protect the community at large and deter activity that could cause irreparable harm. Ensuring that the State's roadways and facilities are safe is MDOT's top priority.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee grant House Bill 601 a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

Pilar Helm
Director of Government Affairs
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