



To: Members of The House Judiciary Committee  
From: Doyle Niemann, Chair, Legislative Committee, Criminal Law and Practice Section,  
Maryland State Bar Association  
Date: February 9, 2024  
Subject: **HB601 – Street Racing and Exhibition Driving**  
Position: **SUPPORT**

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The Legislative Committee of the Criminal Law & Practice Section of the Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) **Supports HB601 – Street Racing and Exhibition Driving.**

This bill defines an offense in the Traffic Article for individuals who engage in street racing and dangerous exhibition driving in public places and sets forth penalties, including points on a license.

This is an increasing problem for which current laws do not provide an adequate response. Street racing, often involving multiple vehicles and large numbers of spectators occur on major roadways throughout the state, including well-traveled streets with lots of other traffic. Likewise, exhibition driving, which involves unsafe maneuvers at often high speed occur both on public roadways and in other public areas. Both present significant danger to participants, observers and others who may be nearby. There have been a number of examples where these activities have resulted in significant harm and even death around the state.

The proposed statutes will give law enforcement agencies greater ability to stop this dangerous behavior. The penalties set out will ensure that offenders must appear in court and cannot just pay a small fine. They will help deter individuals from engaging in these dangerous activities and help ensure the safety of our streets and public spaces.

For the reasons stated, we **Support HB601 – Street Racing and Exhibition Driving.**

If you have questions about the position of the Criminal Law and Practice Section's Legislative Committee, please feel free to address them to me at 240-606-1298 or at [doyleniemann@gmail.com](mailto:doyleniemann@gmail.com).

Should you have other questions, please contact The MSBA's Legislative Office at (410) 387-5606..

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