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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
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HB193

ANNE ARUNDEL - SPEED LIMIT ESTABLISHMENT

SUPPORT

GOOD AFTERNOON CHAIR KORMAN, VICE-CHAIR BOYCE AND ESTEEMED COLLEAGUES. I AM ASKING YOUR FAVORABLE REPORT FOR HB193, A BILL THAT AUTHORIZES ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY TO LOWER THE MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT TO 15 MILES PER HOUR ON CERTAIN ROADWAYS AFTER PERFORMING AN ENGINEERING/TRAFFIC STUDY. *THIS BILL HAS RECEIVED UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FROM THE COUNTY DELEGATION.* THE COMMITTEE HAS RECEIVED THE LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM THE COUNTY DELEGATION.

PEDESTRIAN FATALITIES ARE A SERIOUS PROBLEM IN ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY. THE FASTER CARS TRAVEL, THE GREATER THE CHANCE THERE IS FOR FATAL INJURIES TO PEDESTRIANS, BICYCLISTS, PASSENGERS, AND DRIVERS. DATA FROM THE FOUNDATION FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY SHOWS THAT THE AVERAGE RISK OF DEATH FOR A PEDESTRIAN STRUCK BY A CAR REACHES 10% AT AN IMPACT SPEED OF 23 MPH, 50% AT 42 MPH, 75% AT 50 MPH, AND 90% RISK OF DEATH AT 58 MPH! A PEDESTRIAN OR BICYCLIST STRUCK BY A MOTORIST DRIVING 40 MPH IS EIGHT TIMES MORE LIKELY TO DIE THAN A PEDESTRIAN OR A BICYCLIST STRUCK AT 20 MPH. THE GOAL OF HB193 IS TO REDUCE INJURIES AND FATALITIES AND MAKE ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY ROADS SAFER BY GIVING THE COUNTY AND LOCAL JURISDICTIONS THE AUTHORITY TO LOWER SPEED LIMITS WHERE IT IS WARRANTED.

THIS LEGISLATION IS THE ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY VERSION OF A LOCAL BILL SPONSORED BY THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY DELEGATION THAT PASSED IN 2021. THAT BILL AUTHORIZED MONTGOMERY COUNTY AND ITS MUNICIPALITIES TO DECREASE HIGHWAY SPEED LIMITS TO NOT LESS THAN 15 MILES PER HOUR AFTER CONDUCTING AN ENGINEERING AND TRAFFIC INVESTIGATION. IT ALSO PROHIBITED MONTGOMERY COUNTY AUTHORITIES FROM INSTALLING NEW SPEED MONITORING SYSTEMS WHERE THE SPEED LIMIT HAS BEEN REDUCED PURSUANT TO THE BILL'S AUTHORIZATION.

SINCE MONTGOMERY COUNTY IS NOW AUTHORIZED TO LOWER ITS SPEED LIMIT TO 15 MILES PER HOUR, OTHER COUNTIES SHOULD HAVE THE SAME OPTION. THE STATE AND MANY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, HAVE ADOPTED VISION ZERO POLICIES TO ELIMINATE CAR-RELATED DEATHS AND THIS BILL PROVIDES AN IMPORTANT TOOL TO ASSIST ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY IN REALIZING THAT GOAL. ADDITIONALLY, THE MANDATED TRAFFIC STUDY PROVIDES AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS' INPUT AND CONCERNS TO BE VOICED.

THE HOUSE BILL CLARIFIES THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW SPEED MONITORING SYSTEMS IN AREAS WHERE THE SPEED LIMIT HAD BEEN REDUCED. HB193 DOES NOT RESTRICT ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY FROM INSTALLING NEW SPEED MONITORING SYSTEMS ON A HIGHWAY SIMPLY BECAUSE THE SPEED LIMIT HAD BEEN DECREASED FROM 55 TO 45 MILES PER HOUR, BUT IT DOES PROHIBIT INSTALLATION OF NEW SPEED MONITORING SYSTEMS ON ROADWAYS IF THE SPEED LIMIT IS LOWERED PURSUANT TO THE BILL'S AUTHORIZATION.

HB193 GIVES LOCAL JURISDICTIONS THE AUTHORITY TO BE AT THE FOREFRONT OF ENSURING TRAFFIC, PEDESTRIAN, AND BICYCLE SAFETY IN THEIR COMMUNITIES AND ULTIMATELY WILL SAVE LIVES.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION. I URGE A FAVORABLE REPORT.