



Maryland Municipal League
The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

February 15, 2024

Committee: House Environment and Transportation

Bill: HB 601 - Street Racing and Exhibition Driving - Prohibited Acts, Enforcement, and Penalties

Position: Favorable

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) supports House Bill 601 which prohibits exhibition driving and authorizes local governments state-wide to designate a “special event zone” on roadways under their jurisdiction. These changes will significantly improve roadway safety by addressing the problem of exhibition driving.

Expressly defining and prohibiting exhibition driving on all public roads sends a clear message that this type of behavior is dangerous and a problem across Maryland. Currently, only in Worcester County can a local government designate a special event zone and see the additional benefits of doing so. In a special event zone, a local government can lower the speed limit further and add additional signage indicating penalties for certain violations. HB 601 expands the authority to designate a special event zone to local governments state-wide.

One municipality, Ocean City, has used this authority to promote roadway safety during motor events that take place. Special event zones have helped the city to implement additional safety measures at events that draw a high number of motor vehicles and pedestrians in a crowded area.

The provisions of HB 601 should significantly assist municipal governments promote roadway safety through the prohibition of exhibition generally and a new state-wide authority for local governments to establish special event zones. For these reasons, the League respectfully requests that the committee provide House Bill 601 with a favorable report.

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