



Wes Moore, Governor  
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor  
Josh Kurtz, Secretary  
David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary

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February 21, 2024

**BILL NUMBER: House Bill 683 - First Reader**

**SHORT TITLE: Homicide or Life-Threatening Injury by Motor Vehicle or Vessel – Parole Eligibility and Penalties**

**DEPARTMENT’S POSITION: LETTER OF INFORMATION WITH AMENDMENTS**

### **EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT’S POSITION**

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House Bill 683 categorizes several crimes associated with homicide or causing life threatening injury to another while operating a motor vehicle or vessel under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or a combination of drugs and alcohol as violent crimes. House Bill 683 also adds violations of CL § 3–212.1 to the list of criminal and transportation article statutes which trigger subsequent offender penalties laws, which the bill also increases. The Department offers for consideration an amendment which would add NR § 8-738, appropriately including violations involving operating a vessel while under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or a combination of drugs and alcohol, to the list of crimes that would cause subsequent offender penalties to be applied.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

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The Maryland Natural Resources Police charged 164 persons with operating a vessel while intoxicated in 2021, 141 people in 2022, and 134 people in 2023.

### **BILL EXPLANATION**

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This bill categorizes new crimes under the definition of violent crime. Included in these crimes are several which involve the commission of homicide or causing life threatening injury while operating a vehicle or vessel while under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or a combination of drugs and alcohol. The bill also establishes increased penalties for subsequent offenders.

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BY:

(To be offered in the Judicial Proceedings Committee)

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 683

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 3, in lines 25 and 32, on page 4, in lines 26 and 33, on page 5, in lines 16 and 23, on page 6, in lines 6, 13, 27, and 34, on page 7, in lines 15 and 22, on page 8, in lines 21 and 34, on page 9, in lines 15 and 31, and on page 10, in line 2, in each instance, after “article,” strike “or”; in the same lines, in each instance, after “Article,” insert “OR § 8-738 OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES ARTICLE,”; on page 10, in lines 26 and 34, in each instance, strike the second “OR”; and on page 10, in line 27, and on page 11, in line 1, in each instance, after “ARTICLE,” insert “OR § 8-738 OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES ARTICLE,”.