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Education, Energy, and
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Executive Nominations Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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The House Environment and Transportation Committee
SB 101 – Wicomico County – Vehicle Laws – Prohibition on Roadway
Solicitations
Statement of Support by Bill Sponsor Senator Mary Beth Carozza

Thank you Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and members of the distinguished House and Environment Transportation Committee for this opportunity to present Senate Bill 101 – Wicomico County – Vehicle Laws – Prohibition on Roadway Solicitations. The legislation unanimously passed the Senate on February 13th.

This local, enabling legislation would prohibit a person from standing in a roadway, median divider, or intersection to solicit money or donations of any kind from the occupant of a vehicle within Wicomico County. Senate Bill 101 is modeled after other local enabling bills that already have passed and are in effect in Carroll, Charles, Harford, and Washington counties (Transportation Article 21-507 (c)).

I want to state up front that SB 101 does not criminalize individuals who are soliciting donations or prevent them from soliciting donations. This legislation merely prohibits solicitations from being conducted in roadways where it could be dangerous for the solicitors, the drivers on the road, the responding officers, and the surrounding community. Since January of 2022, the Salisbury Police Department has responded to 337 calls for service related to money solicitation, and almost all of these calls involved individuals standing too close or directly in active lanes of vehicular traffic. There have been instances where the solicitors placed themselves directly in front of an oncoming vehicle, and situations where students are placing themselves in danger by fundraising from the median strip.

SB 101 is fully intended to increase public safety by ensuring that solicitation activities are not conducted in areas where it could be dangerous. Roadway solicitations have become an increasing public safety concern in Wicomico County, and prohibiting this action in a potentially dangerous place would allow our public safety officers to protect the public and assist those individuals who may need assistance due to poverty and homelessness.

This local bill is supported by Wicomico Public Schools, the Wicomico County Council, the Wicomico County Executive, the City of Salisbury and Salisbury Police Department; Wicomico Sheriff's Office, and Salisbury University. I thank you for your kind attention and consideration, and I respectfully request a favorable and very swift report on SB 101.