

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
ST. MARY'S COUNTY DELEGATION

February 7, 2025

The Honorable Marc Korman, Chair
House Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251, House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Testimony in Support of HB0460 St. Mary's County - Vehicle Laws - Prohibition on Roadway Solicitations

Dear Chair Korman, Vice-Chair Boyce and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

The St. Mary's County Delegation is presenting House Bill 460 for the purpose of providing safe roadways for both vehicles and pedestrians. The bill prohibits any standing in the roadway, median of the roadway or intersection to solicit money or donations of any kind.

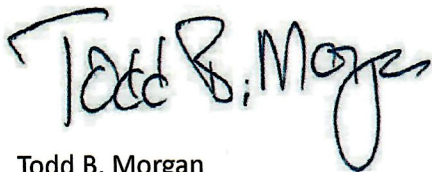
St. Mary's County is rural in nature with the exception of a few town centers, where the vast majority of our commercial growth has been directed. These areas have few elevated concrete medians, which are found as part of a typical commercial intersection with a state road and do not include crosswalks because there are few sidewalks. Most of these roads have posted speed limits of at least 30 mph. With increasing traffic upon the rural highways, the county feels it is necessary to address the issue of solicitation in the roadways for public safety.

In 2024, the Attorney General of Maryland rendered an opinion in which content-neutral restrictions on giving money in response to roadside solicitation was found to be permissible because in the interest of traffic safety the bill did not make any distinctions in the kind of prohibited roadway solicitation. As such, House Bill 766 (2024) was passed as a local Calvert County bill.

St. Mary's County has drafted HB460 using the same language and HB766 (2024). This bill will make our intersections and roadways safer for pedestrians and vehicles.

We ask for the committee's consideration of this bill and a FAVORABLE report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd B. Morgan". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font. The first name "Todd" is written with a large, sweeping 'T'. The middle initial "B." is written in a smaller, more compact script. The last name "Morgan" is written with a large, flowing 'M' and a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Todd B. Morgan
Chair, St. Mary's County Delegation