

02/03/2026

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TESTIMONY ON SB#/0189- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Municipalities - Open Drainage Inlets - Required Grating Systems (Mason's Law)

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#/0189, Municipalities - Open Drainage Inlets - Required Grating Systems (Mason's Law)

This bill is being submitted to react to the tragic death of Mason Kearns in Mt. Airy, MD who was swept by a flash flood into a culvert and trapped.¹

We can make these tragedies preventable by passing this bill to require a municipality to construct or install an approved grating system which places a cover over the opening of an open drainage inlet in order to allow stormwater runoff to enter the drainage inlet while preventing large debris from entering the drainage inlet; requiring the approved grating system be installed on a new or existing open drainage inlet within the municipality; etc.

We will honor Mason's memory and ensure no other child loses their life when measures exist to prevent it.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#/0189.

¹ <https://www.wmar2news.com/news/region/carroll-county/mount-airy-acts-after-childs-death-in-flash-flood>