

03/04/2026

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**TESTIMONY ON SB#0698 - POSITION: FAVORABLE**

**Vehicle Laws - Dangerous Accumulations of Snow and Ice - Removal From Exposed Vehicle Surfaces (Clear Before You Drive Act)**

**TO:** Chair Smith, Jr., Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings 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 favor of SB#0698, Vehicle Laws - Dangerous Accumulations of Snow and Ice - Removal From Exposed Vehicle Surfaces (Clear Before You Drive Act)**

Driving home from Annapolis on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026 on US 70 my car windshield was almost struck by a piece of ice from the roof of a truck in front of me. It hit the road directly in front of my car.

As reported by WBAL TV *Ice flying off cars injures 3 in Maryland, prompting safety reminders*<sup>1</sup>

*Ice flying off cars injured at least three people in Maryland, including an Anne Arundel County sheriff's deputy, prompting leaders to remind drivers to clear snow and ice from their vehicles to prevent further accidents.*

*A large chunk of ice flew off another vehicle and hit a deputy's car on Interstate 97 Wednesday [January 21, 2026] morning, leaving the patrol car with a busted windshield and ice inside.*

It is incumbent on Maryland to prevent such accidents, and this bill will offer a path to doing that.

This bill meets that goal by prohibiting a person from operating or towing a vehicle without removing from exposed vehicle surfaces accumulated snow and ice; and prohibiting a person from committing a violation of the Act that contributes to an accident resulting in property damage or the death of or serious bodily injury to another person.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#0698.**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.wbaltv.com/article/officer-injured-windshield-smashed-sliding-ice-other-vehicle/70171805>