



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: House Bill 70 - Vehicle Laws - Intersections - Prohibited Acts

SPONSOR: Delegate Carr, *et al.*

HEARING DATE: January 30, 2020

COMMITTEE: Environment and Transportation

CONTACT: Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 70 - Vehicle Laws - Intersections - Prohibited Acts**, which prohibits a vehicle facing a circular green signal, a green arrow signal, or a steady yellow signal from entering an intersection if the vehicle is unable to safely and completely proceed through the intersection. The bill allows a vehicle making a left turn at a circular green signal to enter an intersection while yielding the right-of-way to a pedestrian or to a vehicle approaching from the opposite direction. The bill also allows a vehicle making a right turn to enter an intersection while yielding the right-of-way to a pedestrian or bicyclist. A police officer may not issue a citation for a violation unless the approach to the intersection has appropriate signage installed in accordance with the Maryland Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices notifying the public that a vehicle may not make a movement at the intersection that violates the bill's provisions.

The Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation and the Prince George's County Police Department have both recommended support of HB 70 as it will potentially reduce the number of crashes in intersections within the County and State. HB 70 also is in line with the County's Vision Zero initiative, which has a goal of achieving zero fatalities on the County's roadways by 2040 by utilizing the 6Es: Education, Emergency Response, Engineering, Enforcement, Evaluation, and Equity to spur effective change.

Data provided by the District Court shows 82 citations were issued statewide in FY 2019 for failing to yield the intersection right-of-way after a circular green traffic signal. Operating in this manner is very dangerous and this measure will

provide greater clarity and a better mechanism for preventing this dangerous practice and enforcing its violation.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 70** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.