

**Testimony in Support of HB 702 Vehicle Laws - Rules of the Road – Lane Changes
Environment and Transportation Committee
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With Maryland's population continuing to increase; roads becoming more crowded; speeding almost a routine; and drivers doing crazy, dangerous maneuvers, some of our transportation laws and regulations need to be strengthened and better publicized to combat these conditions. Required use of lane changing signals is at the top of the list of laws needing to be upgraded..

-The current law governing (I believe it is called "Unsafe Driving") is at best, generic, and does not clearly explain how Maryland's driving public should be following a basic set of rules to enhance the safety of all using the State's roadways. HB 702 does that!

-In particular, the driving public needs to be made aware of how important it is to use signals, whether on a 65 MPH Interstate, or a roundabout, traffic light or at a stop sign in their own neighborhood. Much of this can be accomplished via publicity - and enforcement of a lane changing signal law.

-A very low percentage of people behind the wheel know how to properly use directional signals. And rather than routinely using signals each time a turn or lane change is made, the driver will "think about" and "determine" whether or not their movements require use of a signal. This can be referred to as "signaling by exception".

-Drivers in transit or Maryland citizens are also not aware, for the most part, that (when HB 702 is enacted) there **is** a Maryland transportation statute making it a violation to not use signals when changing lanes.

-My premise is that once HB 702 is enacted, through publications at the State and local levels such as daily and weekly newspapers and magazines; announcements at high schools and colleges; announcements on t.v., radio and social media; MVA roadside and illuminated overhead signs) and word gets around about the importance of lane changing signaling, the driving public will take heed and accept signaling as a routine and not a difficult task. Law enforcement will also be critical to make this happen.

I ask for a favorable vote on HB 702.