



Larry Hogan
Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor
Gregory Slater
Secretary

March 11, 2020

The Honorable Delores Kelley
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401

RE: Letter of Information – Senate Bill 908 – Transportation - Railroad Grade Crossing Over Private Road - Stop Sign

Dear Chair Kelley and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on Senate Bill 908 but offers the following information for the Committee's consideration.

Senate Bill 908 requires the MDOT State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) to place stop signs at each railroad grade crossing over a private road.

The MDOT SHA manages the highway-rail grade crossing safety program for the State of Maryland. In partnership with the Federal Rail Administration (FRA) and CSX, MDOT continues to make positive strides in enhancing and improving safety infrastructure at grade railroad crossings.

As the impacted crossings referenced in the bill are on private roads, the acquisition of right-of-way or easements to place and maintain stop signs would likely be necessary. MDOT SHA estimates that there are approximately 650 privately owned railroad grade crossings in the State. Some of these locations may already have stop signs or other safety infrastructure, but for those locations without signs currently in place, MDOT SHA would need the cooperation of the property owners to comply with this legislation.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information while deliberating Senate Bill 908.

Respectfully submitted,

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