

Maryland-Delaware Solid Waste Association

a chapter of the

**National
Waste & Recycling
AssociationSM**

Collect. Recycle. Innovate.

TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
Members, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
The Honorable Jack Bailey

FROM: Richard A. Tabuteau
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J. Steven Wise
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DATE: February 6, 2020

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 319 – *Vehicle Laws – Move Over Safety Monitoring System – Authorization*

The Maryland Delaware Solid Waste Association (MDSWA), a chapter of the National Waste and Recycling Association, is a trade association representing the private solid waste industry in the State of Maryland. Its membership includes hauling and collection companies, processing and recycling facilities, transfer stations, and disposal facilities. MDSWA and its members **support** Senate Bill 319.

Senate Bill 319 establishes a regulatory framework for the use of “move over safety monitoring systems” in the State. Specifically, the systems are authorized for emergency or police vehicles to capture visual evidence of a violation of the Maryland Vehicle Law’s “move over” requirement and report the violation to an appropriate law enforcement agency. The Move Over law requires a driver of a vehicle to move over or slow down when approaching from the rear emergency service vehicle, tow truck, and waste or recycling collection vehicles that are stopped, standing, or parked. If the stopped, standing, or parked vehicle meets specified visual signal requirements, the driver must, and only if practicable, make a lane change into an available lane that is nonadjacent to the specified vehicle.

Senate Bill 319 builds off the General Assembly’s expansion of Maryland’s “Move Over” law. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the waste and recycling collection occupation ranks fifth in the nation for injuries, accidents, and fatalities. Data also shows that many accidents involving waste and collection workers are caused by reckless motorists. As a result, the NWRA began “Slow Down to Get Around”, a national safety campaign that reminds motorists to drive more carefully when near waste and recycling collection vehicles. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health has endorsed the campaign and has partnered with NWRA to spread the message.

According to the Fiscal Note, “2,937 citations were issued in fiscal 2019 for failure to make a lane change or slow to a reasonable and prudent speed while passing an emergency vehicle, tow truck, or other

specified vehicle. Some of these violations may have been related to tow trucks or other specified vehicles...In that same year, there were 1,998 violations of other provisions of the move over requirement."

Senate Bill 319 is a recognition that roadside injuries and fatalities are completely preventable. Although the bill unfortunately does not authorize this monitoring system for waste and recycling vehicles, it nevertheless reinforces the message that motorists must "slow down" when approaching vehicles with red or yellow/amber lights. As such, MDSWA strongly urges the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to give Senate Bill 319 a favorable report.

For more information call:

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