



State of Maryland
Department of State Police
Government Affairs Section
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POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

DATE: March 4, 2020

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 878 **Position: Support**

BILL TITLE: Worcester County – Special Event Zones – Prohibitions

REVIEW AND ANALYSIS:

This legislation seeks to prohibit a person from engaging in exhibition driving within a special event zone in Worcester County. This legislation defines exhibition driving and specifies the penalties for violating the section.

In 2018 the General Assembly passed legislation prohibiting speeding in defined special event zones. Since then, in Worcester County, there have continued to be three special events per year. Two are sanctioned by Ocean City, MD and one is not. The behavior of some of the drivers during these events is reckless and a danger to both pedestrians and drivers alike.

This legislation seeks to expand the authority of the 2018 law and provide the city of Ocean City and its law enforcement partners a better ability to control the behavior of the participants who do not feel the need to adhere to Maryland's current laws. This legislation will allow law enforcement to remove a person from the special event zone and curtail their continued lawless behavior. Without the ability to remove the participants of illegal activity, as we have seen in the past, they will receive their citation and continue their illegal course of conduct.

This legislation is paramount for the Ocean City to continue to be a destination for both residents and visitors to feel safe and enjoy all of the activities offered.

For these reasons, the Department of State Police urges the Committee to give Senate Bill 878 a favorable report.