



Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary
Charles Glass, Deputy Secretary

February 12, 2020

The Honorable Luke Clippinger
Chair, Judiciary Committee
101 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Support – House Bill 352 – Criminal Law – Life Threatening Injury Involving a Motor Vehicle or Vessel – Criminal Negligence (Wade’s Law)

Dear Chair Clippinger and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources supports House Bill 352 because it provides a mechanism by which to hold persons accountable for criminally negligent behavior, when not under the influence of drugs or alcohol, and when that behavior results in life-threatening injury to another.

The standard of proof required by this legislation would be below the level of gross negligence, which is often difficult to prove. This bill also does not require proof that the operator was impaired while engaged in the criminally negligent behavior, which is currently required by CR § 3-211. This legislation would provide a valuable enforcement tool to address unsafe behavior.

For this reason, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources respectfully requests the Committee to grant House Bill 352 a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

James W. McKitrick
Director, Legislative and Constituent Services