

VANESSA E. ATTERBEARY  
*Legislative District 13*  
Howard County

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

*Vice Chair*  
Judiciary Committee

*Subcommittees*  
Chair, Family Law



The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 101  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3471 · 301-858-3471  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3471  
Fax 410-841-3438 · 301-858-3438  
Vanessa.Atterbeary@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**HB 952 - Drunk Driving - Administrative Per Se Offenses - Ignition Interlock System Program**

I'm proud to be the lead on this life-saving legislation. Drunk drivers are responsible for a third of all of Maryland's traffic fatalities – about 150 Marylanders die every year due to drunk driving. From 2012 to 2016, on average, there were more than 7,200 impaired driving crashes each year, resulting in nearly 3,500 injuries and tragic fatalities.

In 2016, we did something about it. The Drunk Driving Reduction Act of 2016, also known as Noah's Law, makes Maryland's roadways safer by mandating ignition interlock for drunk drivers upon conviction and by requiring strict adherence to the Ignition Interlock Program in Maryland.

House Bill 952 would strengthen Noah's Law by making Maryland a truly "all offender" state. In Maryland, the majority of drunk drivers end up with probation before judgment, or a PBJ after their first arrest. Upon their second arrest, drunk drivers are convicted of a drunk driving offense.

Noah's Law required the second time offenders to participate in the state's ignition interlock program. This legislation will close the gap between PBJ and conviction by requiring drunk drivers to complete 180 days on an interlock as a condition of their probation.

Why are we working to capture the individuals with probation before judgement? Because all-offender laws are the only thing that stops drunk drivers from reoffending. According to the CDC, ignition interlocks are effective in reducing repeat drunk driving offenses by 67 percent while the device is installed compared to license suspension alone.

Beyond immediate prevention, interlocks help save lives because they change behaviors. Research continues to show that drivers who have ignition interlock devices installed are less likely to have a repeat drunk-driving offense while using ignition interlock than drunk drivers who do not have an interlock device installed.

In Fiscal Year 2018, Maryland's Ignition Interlock Program prevented more than 3,200 drivers from starting or operating a vehicle where the driver's blood alcohol concentration was greater than 0.08 – the legal limit in Maryland. Ignition interlock continues to save lives by preventing impaired drivers from driving on Maryland roads.

By including individuals who receive probation before judgement for their first drunk driving offense – Maryland can help prevent more serious drunk driving accidents and fatalities down the road.

When we passed Noah's Law in 2016, the state estimated that between 6,000-7,000 drunk drivers would be added to the ignition interlock program.

**According to MVA 16,367 new referrals were made to our ignition interlock program in 2018.** We know Noah's law is working. Now let's preserve his legacy, close this loophole, and ensure that the individuals receiving a PBJ are prevented from driving drunk ever again.

Today, 32 states have adopted similar measures to the bill we passed in 2016. Maryland has been a leader on drunk driving prevention and now that we've seen the lifesaving benefits of these laws first hand, it's time to address one significant gap in our laws and get individuals on their first drunk driving offense with a probation before judgement enrolled into our ignition interlock program. I ask for a favorable report on HB952. Thank you.