



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

January 14, 2021

The Honorable Kumar Barve
Chairman, House Environment and Transportation Committee
251 House Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401

Re: Letter of Information – House Bill 311 – Vehicle Laws – Intersections – Prohibited Acts

Dear Chairman Barve and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 311 but offers the following information for the Committee’s consideration.

House Bill 311 prohibits drivers from entering the intersection of a green or yellow signal if the vehicle cannot completely clear the intersection. Enforcement of the bill’s provisions are contingent on signs being installed at an intersection, in accordance with standards specified in the Maryland Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

When a driver decides to enter an intersection without the ability to fully clear the intersection, it impedes the movements of other road users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and other motor vehicles. These unexpected conditions – blocked crosswalks and bike lanes – force pedestrians and bicyclists to make unpredictable movements to navigate the intersection, resulting in unsafe conditions and potential accidents and collisions.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information as it deliberates House Bill 311.

Sincerely,

Mitch Baldwin
State Legislative Manager
Maryland State Highway Administration
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Pilar Helm
Director of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-865-1090