

2020 / 2021 Director

Ken Eaton

2020 / 2021 County Representatives

Caroline: Jeff Kinnamon
Dorchester: John Knox
Queen Anne's: Ken Eaton
Talbot: Jimmy Mountzalia



Dedicated to Freedom of the Road

To: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chairman and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Ken Eaton, Director
Mid-Shore Chapter
ABATE of Maryland, Inc.

Date: March 29, 2021

Re: HB 1114 Illegal Dumping and Litter Control Law – Yard Waste – Disposal on Highways

Position: Favorable

ABATE of Maryland, Inc. supports HB1114 as it pertains to safety of all highway users. Yard waste disposed of or blown onto the roadways creates safety and environmental hazards. This bill will clarify the definition of yard waste and provide reasonable penalties for violations.

The safety hazards are created by yard debris in the form of grass clippings and leaves being deposited or disposed of on the roadway. The accumulation of this debris can cause a loss of traction, as grass clippings and leaves have over 70% moisture content. The debris can become very slippery, and the operator of an automobile, motorcycle or bicycle can lose control of the vehicle, causing an accident or injury. In addition, the debris can contain other trash and miscellaneous items such as broken glass, shredded cans, small tree branches, etc.

The environmental hazards can be created by excess debris accumulating in roadside ditches, storm drain inlets / pipes, curb and gutters and other drainage ways. This can cause clogging and poor drainage conditions. In addition, allowing this practice is counterproductive to the efforts of many municipalities and counties that are constantly trying to meet the NPDES MS4 permitting to address the Chesapeake Bay TDML requirements. Excess nutrients from the debris can runoff into our waterways and end up in tributaries that lead to the Chesapeake Bay.

Kenneth B. Eaton, Director
Mid-Shore Chapter
ABATE of Maryland, Inc.