



ABATE OF MARYLAND, INC.

Dedicated to the Freedom of the Road and Responsible Motorcycle Legislation

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Executive Director, Kenneth V. Sawyer, Abate of Maryland, Inc.

DATE: February 7, 2021

RE: **SB408 – Vehicle Laws – Reckless Driving, Speed Contests,
Registration Plates, and Noise Abatement – Penalties**

POSITION: **UNFAVORABLE**

Abate of Maryland, Inc. is for keeping our public roads safer and, as the voice of motorcyclists throughout the state of Maryland, however we are not in favor of SB408.

We support strong penalties for participants in a race or speed contest resulting in serious bodily injury and are in favor that this offense should mandate a must appear court appearance. Though we do not object to the sentiment regarding registration plates, we believe that is an equipment issue and should not be included in this bill.

However, we do not support the proposed amendment to 22-609(c) of charging a \$200 fine to a person convicted of a violation of exhaust modification. We do not believe exhaust modifications are a safety issue and enforcement of modified exhaust systems could lead to the possibility of police profiling of certain vehicle types and motorists.

The video shown during today's testimony of motorcyclists on MD 200 is not an exhaust problem, it is a speed problem. If those motorcycles were traveling at a posted speed limit the noise levels would be acceptable.

Further, we do not support the HB178 amendment that proposes to follow the California levels of noise limitations of 95db. The majority of motorcycles travel at highway speeds close to the proposed 95DB threshold so a majority of current Maryland motorcycles would be in violation of the law. Would this be the right answer? No, enforcement of the speed laws is the correct answer. It will provide safer Maryland roads.

We respectfully request an unfavorable report of SB408, or that the bill be amended to strike the registration plates and noise abatement suggested provisions.

Kenneth V. Sawyer, Executive Director
Abate of Maryland, Inc.