



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony of Senator Jill P. Carter  
In Favor of SB0020 - Vehicle Laws - Canceled, Revoked, and  
Suspended Driver's Licenses - Penalties  
Before the Judicial Proceedings Committee  
on January 27, 2021**

**Mr. Chairman, Vice chair, and Members of the Committee:**

**Senate Bill 20 is a bill about decreasing the criminalization of nonviolent vehicle offenses related to canceled, revoked, or suspended licenses. The bill seeks to eliminate jail sentences for those convicted of displaying a canceled, revoked, or suspended license.**

**Under current Maryland law, a person convicted under this subtitle is subject to imprisonment for up to two months, a fine of up to \$500, or both. The bill repeals, with exceptions, the term of imprisonment for a convicted person but leaves the amount of the maximum fine unchanged.**

**Additionally, under current law, the Motor Vehicle Administration must assess 12 points against a person convicted for possessing a canceled, revoked, or suspended license. Finally, under current law, the District Court requires an individual to appear in court for any of the offenses addressed by the bill.**

**Senate Bill 20 strives to decrease the maximum point assessment from 12 points to 3 points against a person's license. Additionally, the bill removes the requirement that a person who is charged with one of these offenses appear in court.**

**Furthermore, this bill has potential benefits that touch on many areas of state government. First, the bill would be beneficial for decreasing general fund expenditures because it would essentially decrease the number of people being committed to correctional facilities for convictions. Second, it would decrease the number of arrests because persons charged with possessing a suspended, revoked, or canceled license would no longer be arrested, or required to attend a District Court hearing/trial. This would allow for greater efficiency within the courts. Third, Local Expenditures would also likely decrease because less people in jail means less money the state and various counties would need to pay to incarcerate individuals. As pointed out in the fiscal note to this bill, revenues are not expected to be impacted while there may be a decrease in State and local expenditures as well.**

**I urge this committee to give a favorable report on SB20. Thank you.**

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jill P. Carter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "C".

Jill P. Carter