



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: January 25, 2021

RE: **SB337 – Vehicle Laws – Reckless Driving – Excessive
Speeding**

POSITION: **FAVORABLE**

Abate of Maryland, Inc. is for making sure our public roads are as safe as possible and, as the voice of motorcyclists throughout the state of Maryland, we are in favor SB337.

The proposed amendments to this bill include 1) adding that speeding in excess of 20 MPH over the speed limit is considered reckless driving and, 2) that persons charged with reckless driving may not prepay a fine but must appear in Court to answer for their conduct.

We believe that requiring a court appearance for persons charged with driving recklessly, including those speeding more than 20 MPH over the speed limit, would deter motorists from this behavior. Simply paying a fine without further thought is often not strong enough to alter this unsafe driving. The inconvenience of missing employment to attend court, the potential expense of hiring a lawyer, and the discomfort of being confronted with their actions in a court of law would likely get the attention of many motorists who simply do not see this driving for the danger that it presents to all that travel the roads.

We request a favorable report of SB337.

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