

VIA EMAIL

Delegate Kumar P. Barve
House Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 599

Dear Chairman Barve,

I have taken the opportunity to review the AFSCME response regarding their opposition to SB599. In my opinion, I do not foresee the passage of this bill as having any negative impact on employment at the MVA.

Similar to the Tag and Title Companies that have been approved to operate in Maryland, the ability to provide Third Party License Testing is just an option to provide to the citizens of Maryland as a matter of convenience. MVA employees will still be required to process all new learner's permits at their branch facilities and MVA employees will still be needed to administer driving tests at MVA branch facilities.

What this bill does allow is for parents to be able to have the option of taking a test at a more convenient time around either their work schedule or around their child's school or athletic schedules. Third Party testing could be conducted on weekends and holidays when typically the MVA is closed to the public. By offering parents these options, they would no longer be forced to miss work nor would their children have to miss school in order to get a license appointment during regular MVA business hours.

In Pennsylvania, Third Party Testing would never have gone from a Pilot Program to a full fledge program had there been any significant job losses at any PennDOT locations. The same can be said of Washington, DC's program. In fact, Maryland's approved Third Party Tag and Title Program has not caused any loss of employment at any MVA facilities. The only thing that has happened in approving the Tag and Title Program is that the MVA has provided its citizens with an additional level of convenience.

With the passage of this bill, we hope to be able to implement a Third Party Pilot Program that other states would want to emulate. Additionally, instead of taking jobs away from the MVA, you would in fact be helping to create jobs within our local communities. As mentioned during the hearing, Howard County does not have an MVA testing facility and therefore Howard County residents are forced to travel to Glen Burnie, Westminster or Frederick in order for their children to test for their license.

Because of all of the other licensing requirements that are required, Third Party Testing will not impact any jobs at the MVA. Minors will still have to be processed at the MVA branches in order to obtain their

learner's permits. What this bill provides is the added convenience for those parents who may not be able to take their child to the MVA during regular business hours. If during this Pilot Program it is found that Third Party Testing has had a negative impact on jobs at the MVA, it could be eliminated at the end of the Pilot Period. But as mentioned above, allowing Third Party Tag and Title Companies to provide MVA registration services has not had any negative impact on jobs at the MVA nor has Third Party Testing had any negative impact in Pennsylvania.

Based upon the above information, I would respectfully request that your committee take a favorable view of SB 599 and to allow a Third Party Testing Pilot Program to be implemented in Howard County and any other County as you deem appropriate.

Sincerely,

Chip Sheehan
President
Street Smarts of Maryland
streetsmartsmd@comcast.net