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**To:** Members of The House Environment and Transportation Committee

**From:** Doyle Niemann, Chair, Legislative Committee, Criminal Law and Practice Section

**Date:** January 28, 2022

**Subject:** **HB206 – Vehicle Laws – Licenses and Permits – Prohibited Acts**

**Position:** **Support**

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The Legislative Committee of the Criminal Law & Practice Section of the Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) **Supports HB206 – Vehicle Laws – Licenses and Permits – Prohibited Acts.**

This bill removes an overly broad provision in the current statute that has led to confusion and abuse.

That provision encompasses any action or failure to act forbidden by any other section of the Transportation Article. Almost by definition, it duplicates other parts of the code, each of which carries its own penalty. Its inclusion here, however, in Section 16-301 can leave someone who commits some other action facing a more severe penalty, including the imposition of 12 points, an amount that can imperil their license status.

We believe that statutes should be clear and well-defined. The current statute does not satisfy this test.

For the reasons stated, we **Support HB206.**

If you have questions about the position of the Criminal Law and Practice Section's Legislative Committee, please feel free to address them to me at 240-606-1298 or at [doyleniemann@verizon.net](mailto:doyleniemann@verizon.net).