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Environment and Transportation
Committee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
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HB 102 – Vehicle Laws – Race and Speed Contests – Penalties

SUPPORT

GOOD AFTERNOON MR. CHAIRMAN, MR. VICE CHAIR AND COLLEAGUES. I AM HERE TO ASK YOUR FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF HB 102, CALLING FOR INCREASED PENALTIES FOR CAR SPEEDING CONTESTS, ALSO REFERRED TO AS CAR EXHIBITIONS.

CUE/PLAY VIDEOS!

THIS BILL WAS BROUGHT TO THE COMMITTEE LAST YEAR BY DELEGATE STEWART. IT PASSED ENT AND THE FULL HOUSE BUT WAS NEVER CONSIDERED IN THE SENATE. THE PURPOSE IS TO DECREASE THE NUMBER OF ILLEGAL VEHICLE RACES, SPEED CONTESTS, OR OTHER CAR EXHIBITIONS THAT HAVE OCCURRED ON PUBLIC ROADWAYS AND OCCASIONALLY PARKING LOTS BY IMPOSING STRONGER PENALTIES.

THIS BILL AUTHORIZES POLICE DEPARTMENTS AND COURTS TO IMPOSE PENALTIES THAT ARE MORE APPROPRIATE TO THESE CONTESTS, WHICH ARE DANGEROUS TO

PARTICIPANTS, ONLOOKERS, OTHER MOTORISTS, AND ARE DISRUPTIVE TO THE FLOW OF TRAFFIC AND COMMERCE. THE INCREASED PENALTIES ARE INTENDED TO ACT AS MEANINGFUL DETERRENTS FOR REPEAT OFFENDERS AND TO PROMOTE PUBLIC SAFETY.

THE BILL DOES THREE MAIN THINGS:

FIRST, THE BILL MANDATES A COURT APPEARANCE AND INCREASES THE POINTS ASSESSED AGAINST DRIVERS CONVICTED OF VIOLATING THIS LAW.

SECONDLY, IT REITERATES THE *DISCRETIONARY* AUTHORITY POLICE OFFICERS HAVE TO ORDER IMPOUNDMENT OF THE VEHICLE WHEN WARRANTED.

FINALLY, IT AUTHORIZES A FINE OF UP TO \$1,000 UPON CONVICTION.

THESE CONTESTS HAVE GROWN IN FREQUENCY SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE PANDEMIC. ABSENT MORE SERIOUS PENALTIES, THEY WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION. I URGE YOUR FAVORABLE REPORT.

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