

Support HB 102 Vehicle Laws - Race and Speed Contests - Penalties

To whom it may concern,

Throughout 2020 and 2021, Law Enforcement agencies have had a rise in complaints of street racing and exhibition driving. These departments have committed a large number of resources to combat these issues in an attempt to continue to keep the public safe. One hinderance that Law Enforcement has had is the fact that the wording of the laws concerning street racing and exhibition driving is vague and the penalties are nothing more than a 'slap on the wrist' and do not deter these activities. These events are at times spontaneous and other times are organized in advanced and have caused disruptions in traffic and endangered the lives of citizens who traverse within our state.

My testimony is in support of the proposed legislation with additions to serve as amendments to strengthen the laws.

There should be and inclusion of *Transportation Article 21-1132(a)(2) Exhibition Driving*, and *Transportation Article 21-1117 Skidding, spinning of wheels, and excessive noise prohibited* in this penalty. Race and speed contest describe straight line movements on the roadways and are only a part of the overall problem. There have been many examples of groups of vehicles stopping traffic to exhibit reckless behavior on roadways as well as in parking areas used by the public. One of the most notable was the vehicle who stopped traffic to do 'donuts' on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge in September of 2020. These actions are at times more dangerous than straight line races due to the erratic nature that vehicles have as the rotate around a central point.

Adding a minimum amount of time the vehicle may be impounded as well as the penalty of prolonged impoundment of the vehicle used in the violation if there is a conviction of subsequent violations of the same statute will serve as a more substantial deterrent of committing the violations.

I believe that I understand the goal of HB 102, so I think with these minor amendments the bill will reach its intended goal of preventing the reckless actions and keeping the public safe as they move across our great state. I encourage you to support HB 102.

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