



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: HB 102: Vehicle Laws - Race and Speed Contests - Penalties

SPONSOR: Delegate Lehman

HEARING DATE: January 20, 2022

COMMITTEE: Environment and Transportation

CONTACT: Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS with AMENDMENTS, HB 102: Vehicle Laws - Race and Speed Contests – Penalties**, which alters certain penalties and points assessments for motor vehicle violations related to participation in a race or speed contest; establishes that a person charged with violations related to participation in a race or speed contest must appear in court and may not prepay the fine; and authorizing the towing and impounding of a vehicle involved in certain motor vehicle violations related to participation in a race or speed contest.

The prevalence of driving exhibitions has been a scourge to the peaceful citizens of the entire region, and this bill provides a great step in establishing deterrents that can stop the behavior. These enhanced penalties can become a key preventive measure to exhibition driving and related offenses.

During recent months, these dangerous races have not only plagued roadways in Prince Georges County but communities from western Maryland to the Eastern Shore. While preventing these races provides our community with quiet streets and peaceable commutes, at the heart of this bill is public safety. We strongly support provisions in this bill to protect pedestrians and other drivers, by applying severe fines and penalties in the instances where the reckless behavior of some, endangers the lives of others and places them at risk for serious bodily harm.

However, we wish to offer a friendly amendment, which would establish a scaled point system for driving exhibitions, races, and speed contests that do not result in serious bodily harm, which increases with each offense to ensure violators are held accountable for repeated behavior.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS HB 102 with AMENDMENTS** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.