



MARYLAND CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION



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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Anne Healey, District 22, Prince George's County

FROM: Colonel Kevin M. Anderson, Chair-MCPA Traffic Safety Committee

DATE: January 25, 2022

RE: **HB 130- Motor Vehicles – Required Stops – Secondary Enforcement**

POSITION: OPPOSE

The Traffic Safety Committee of the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) OPPOSE HB 130. Yearly, law enforcement and other emergency services respond to thousands of crashes for property damage and personnel injury. Unfortunately, we also experience more than five hundred (500) fatal motor vehicle crashes yearly. As Maryland has adopted, "Toward Zero Deaths" as our only acceptable highway traffic safety goal, this bill has the potential to weaken our efforts to reduce crashes and save lives.

As you know, current state law permits law enforcement an ability to enforce Transportation Article section 21-204, 21-404, 21-705(a), and 21-707, and section 21-403(b) and (c) as a primary offense. By repealing and reenacting with amendments to make these offenses only enforceable as a secondary violation would certainly increase the potential for crashes and decrease the current enforcement efforts statewide. Over the past three years a review of data from the Maryland Highway Safety Office shows that law enforcement throughout the state has issued more than 40,000 citations for these specific offenses.

To further explain, if these offenses are reenacted as a secondary offense only, then we would clearly begin to see the direct correlation between reduced enforcement and crashes occurring at interesting roads. These crashes have a high potential to involve pedestrians and destructive cross intersecting crashes between vehicles traveling within an intersection.

For these reasons, the Traffic Safety Committee of the MCPA OPPOSE HB 130 and urge an UNFAVORABLE Committee report.