

HB0102 Favorable.pdf

Uploaded by: Daniel Marcin

Position: FAV

HB0102: Support

Thank you to Delegate Lehman for this bill.

Street racing creates dangerous conditions for other drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists, and stroller users. On top of that, it's loud and annoying.

I ask the committee to issue a favorable report on this bill, but also to explore ways in which the activities targeted here are already illegal, and to collaborate with their local jurisdictions to fairly and efficiently improve the quality of life for everybody in their area.

Thank you, and again, I look forward to a favorable report.

Daniel Marcin
1910 Westchester Drive
Wheaton, MD 20902
District 18

Maryland Coalition For Highway Safety - MGA House

Uploaded by: John Seng

Position: FAV



MARYLAND COALITION FOR HIGHWAY SAFETY

Testimony to Maryland House Environment and Transportation Committee

HB 102 - SUPPORT

January 18, 2022

John J. Seng, Director
Maryland Coalition For Highway Safety
JohnJSeng@gmail.com (202) 468-7682
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/marylandcoalitionhighwaysafety>

Delegate Kumar P. Barve
Chair, Maryland House Environment and Transportation Committee
Maryland General Assembly
Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Please SUPPORT HB 102 “Vehicle Laws – Race and Speed Contests – Penalties” House Environment and Transportation Committee Hearing Date: 20 January 2022

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Maryland House Environment and Transportation Committee:

My name is John Seng, volunteer director and founder of the *Maryland Coalition For Highway Safety*.

Our 125-member organization supports all provisions of HB 102, sponsored by Delegate Mary Lehman.

The Maryland Coalition For Highway Safety’s founding organizations include the *American Automobile Association (AAA) Mid-Atlantic*, the *Greater Olney Civic Association*, *The Route 210 Traffic Safety Committee*, *The Tantallon Citizens Association* in Prince George’s County and a group of Maryland home owner associations.

The Problem

Our members have grown increasingly concerned about the safety of our Maryland roads, whether highways, local major roads or neighborhood streets.

All manner of road violence lays in wait for innocent people merely seeking to cross a road, ride their bikes or commute from point A to point B. Why should your constituents – ourselves, our family members and our friends face a risk of dying on our roads just to live their lives?

Most disturbingly, too many people consider Maryland roads as their personal, private raceway, with total disregard to public safety and the quality of life for the overwhelming majority of your constituents.

It all comes down to **deterrence** via peer pressure, via education and most importantly, via increased enforcement of current laws that will hopefully carry increased sanctions against unbridled aggression on Maryland roads.

We believe HB 102 sponsored by Del. Mary Lehman takes a major step in the right direction in sending the message that risking the lives of others in your pursuit of what some people consider “fun” carries a higher price than ever.

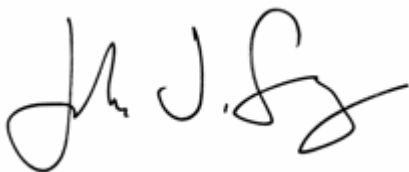
Make Road Violence Perpetrators Tell It To The Judge!

In particular, we emphasize that the “must appear” provision in this bill adds a significant, critical deterrence for individuals who could otherwise still easily, instantly pay even higher penalties, but continue to speed or race in total disregard for public safety and wellbeing. Maryland courts may already be busy, Mr. Barve, but **we believe that the wheels of justice turning at any speed is worth saving even one life**. Stronger deterrents written into law should ultimately lower the burden on our courts. Also, decision-makers should seek other remedies to alev congestion in the legal system. In the meantime, let the specter of a court appearance hang over the heads of drivers who simply pay their fines but selfishly continue their lack of respect for road safety and your constituents.

Putting more teeth into current laws offers a major step in the right direction. **The passage of HB 102 presents real potential to save lives in Maryland.**

We thank you and the Committee for your review of our concerns. We urge you to submit a favorable report on HB 102.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. Seng". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

John J. Seng
Director

CC: Delegate Mary Lehman, Maryland Coalition For Highway Safety members

LEHMAN WRITTEN TESTIMONY ON HB 102 CAR CONTESTS.pdf

Uploaded by: Mary Lehman

Position: FAV

DELEGATE MARY A. LEHMAN
Legislative District 21
Prince George's and
Anne Arundel Counties

Environment and Transportation
Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 317
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
301-858-3114 · 410-841-3114
800-492-7122 Ext. 3114
Mary.Lehman@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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.

#####

HB102_FAV_ALI

Uploaded by: Ragina Ali

Position: FAV



AAA Mid-Atlantic's Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 102 Vehicle Laws – Race and Speed Contests - Penalties

Sponsor: Delegate Mary Lehman

- AAA Mid-Atlantic **supports House Bill 102**, which requires a person charged with participating in a race or speed contest to appear in court. HB 102 also prohibits the alleged perpetrator from prepaying the fine. Finally, the bill allows police to tow and impound a vehicle involved in a race or speed contest.
- The bottom line is speed kills and our roadways and parking lots are not race tracks.
- Recently, law enforcement across the country and here in Maryland have cited an increase in street racing.
- In May 2019, 19-year old, Zach Friedlander and his dog were killed in Baltimore County as a result of a crash where the driver who hit him was reportedly street racing and driving at 116 mph in a 35 mph zone.
- In 2009, two people were killed and two more were seriously injured in Woodlawn as a result of illegal street racing on Interstate 70.
- And, in 2008, eight people were killed in Prince George's County when the driver of a car that was participating in an illegal race crashed into a crowd of spectators.
- Last year, according to a **Washington Post article**, Maryland State Police conducted a joint law enforcement initiative focused on speeding and aggressive driving for a four-day period on Interstate 70, which resulted in the issuance of more than 300 traffic citations and warnings.
- While recent research by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety found that even modestly higher speeds at the time of a crash dramatically increase the chances of severe injury and death, these dangerous illegal street races amplify those risks.
- Illegal street racing endangers everyone, including spectators. The reckless and irresponsible actions of those who choose to treat our roads as a race track have resulted in traffic disruption and fatalities on our roads.
- On behalf of AAA Mid-Atlantic's over one million Maryland members, we urge the Committee to give **HB 102 a favorable** report.

Contacts:

*Ragina C. Ali, AAA Mid-Atlantic
Public and Government Affairs Manager
443.465.5020*

*Sherrie Sims, GS Proctor & Associates
Senior Associate
410.733.7171*

HB102_FAV_ALI

Uploaded by: Ragina Ali

Position: FAV



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Sponsor: Delegate Mary Lehman

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Senior Associate
410.733.7171*

HB102_Fav_Weiss

Uploaded by: Ron Weiss

Position: FAV

Testimony to Maryland House Environment and Transportation Committee

HB 102 - Support

January 18, 2022

Ronald Weiss
12511 Haxall Ct.
Fort Washington, MD 20744
weissster@gmail.com 301-292-8112

RE: Support of HB 102, "Vehicle Laws – Race and Speed Contests – Penalties" House Environment and Transportation Committee Hearing Date: 20 January 2022

I am Ron Weiss, a founding member of the MD 210 Traffic Safety Committee, a founding member of the Prince George's Police Division 7 Citizens Advisory Council, a founding member of the Maryland Coalition for Highway Safety, president of the Indian Head Highway Area Action Council and a board member of the Tantallon Citizens Association speaking for myself in support of HB 102.

I live in southern Maryland and I'm a senior who would rather not meet his Maker on Maryland roads.

All my 6 grown children and their families live in Maryland, and I want them safe on our roads.

My over 4 years of trying to make MD 210 safer has led me to the conclusion that I, my family and all Marylanders are at mortal risk on our roads because of the relatively few drivers who are potential killers.

Transportation safety depends on users following the rules of the road to provide a predictable environment for all users. Racing and speed contests inject chaos in our road environment and make our driving environment less predictable and riskier. Air and railway modes of transportation do not tolerate bad actors and we should not tolerate bad actors on our roads either.

Increasing the penalties incurred by drivers racing and speeding will go a long way to modifying their behavior for the benefit of all drivers and passengers.

I urge the committee to support HB 102.

Thank you for your consideration.



Ronald F. Weiss

FAV TESTIMONY for HB102 ('22)_ CMTomDernoga_fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Tom Dernoga

Position: FAV



Thomas E. Dernoga
Council Member
District 1

January 18, 2022

Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building
6 Bladen St., Room 251
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB 102 Vehicle Laws - Race and Speed Contests - Penalties
Position: Support

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Committee,

I strongly urge you to give a favorable report to HB 102 to increase penalties and points assessments for violations related to participation in racing or speed contests.

I represent the furthest northern district of the county with three different legislative districts: 21, 23A, and 47B. We are adjacent to Montgomery, Howard, and Anne Arundel Counties. The district includes the unincorporated areas Adelphi, Beltsville, Calverton, Montpelier, South Laurel, West Laurel, Vansville and the municipalities of Laurel and College Park. I would like to thank Delegate Lehman for sponsoring this legislation.

HB 102 will create stronger deterrents such as points on an individual's license, a thousand dollar fine and a court appearance to combat the dangerous racing activities that is plaguing District 1 of Prince George's County. Currently, as the state law reads, individuals convicted for racing only see 5 points added to their license. Keep in mind, in order for an individual to receive a suspension or revocation of their license, the individual needs between 8 and 11 points or more than 12 points, respectively. HB 102 plans to implement these exact thresholds to effectively deter racers.

Vehicle racing affects our community in District 1. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, from 2009 to 2019, Prince George's County reported 273 fatal vehicle crashes as a result of speeding. Speeding and racing are connected issues. While racing is not the sole causation for motor vehicle fatalities, we can determine a connection between the action of racing and the required conditions shared between racing and fatal crashes. Conditions such as excessive speeds, reckless driving, and knowingly or unknowingly endangering the public. ZeroDeaths MD from the Maryland Department of Transportation, records 72 fatal crashes in 2019 and 101 in 2020, a 33 percent increase. Yet, the total number of crashes between 2019 and 2020 has a decrease of nearly 20 percent (2019: 9,182; 2020: 7,564). Meaning, fatalities from crashes are rising while overall crashes are decreasing.

Historical trends from traffic data show that each time an additional road safety concern has occurred, any action taken to solve the concern lowers traffic fatalities. According to data collected by the Maryland Department of Transportation, airbags, helmet laws, and primary seat belt laws resulted in a significant drop in fatalities. From 1987 to 2000, fatalities dropped from 830 to 598. Stricter laws and enforcements successfully work to reduce fatalities in vehicle accidents.

In District 1 of Prince George's County, we have received complaints and concerns of vehicles racing on following streets and roads:

- Snow Acres Drive (2 complaints)
- MD 197 near Muirkirk Road
- Muirkirk Road
- MD 295 & I-95
- Caverly to Montgomery Ave
- MD 197 & Briarcroft Lane (near Park and Ride)
- Montgomery Road
- Cherry Hill Road
- Briggs Chaney Road (2 complaints)
- Ammendale Road & Old Gunpowder Road
- Kenilworth Ave & Greenbelt Road
- Cordwall Drive & Brewer Road
- Santa Anita Drive
- Bentley Park Drive (3 homes hit by speeding/racing vehicles)
- Odell Road
- Buck Lodge Terrace
- Briarchip Street
- MD 198

Traffic calming devices can limit how fast drivers may drive. All traffic calming devices focus on getting drivers to slow down. In District 1, the complaints we have received from constituents come largely from those who live on either busier roads or much smaller, one-way, dead end roads. In Seattle, Washington from 2007 to 2010 speed contributed to 42% of the fatal crashes. The city took action by ensuring speed limit signs were highly visible, engaging neighborhoods and community associations, and upgrading speed limit signage near schools. Preliminary data from Seattle and the Department of Transportation showed that these strategies are effectively decreasing speed and reducing crashes. Another example from Lafayette, Louisiana showed that once traffic calming devices including "mini" roundabouts, speed humps, and chokers successfully decreased the number of drivers traveling over 23 miles per hour and increased the number of drivers traveling below 23 miles per hour.

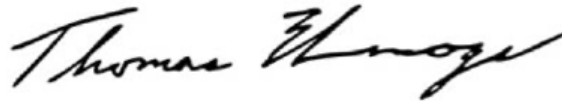
Additionally, we know that District 1 residents desire a change with vehicle racing. The following meetings have taken place throughout District 1:

- 2021-01-27 District 1 Citizens Advisory Council (CAC Hyattsville) meeting
- 2021-01-28 District 6 Citizens Advisory Council (CAC Beltsville) meeting
- 2020-10-28 District 1 Citizens Advisory Council (CAC Hyattsville) meeting
- 2021-03-24 District 1 Citizens Advisory Council (CAC Hyattsville) meeting
- 2020-11-12 West Laurel Civic Association (WLCA) Board meeting

Each meeting addressed constituents' concerns with vehicle racing. With meetings concluding with District 1 constituents recognizing vehicle racing is a state issue that should be acted on with haste. Other constituents pointed out that adding more street signs will not be enough. Drivers will continue to run stop signs and speed if they are not facing higher consequences.

This is the right thing to do and I firmly stand with Delegate Lehman in supporting this legislation. For the reasons stated above, I respectfully request a **favorable report** for HB 102. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas E. Dernoga". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thomas E. Dernoga

Telephone: (301) 952-3887	Wayne K. Curry Administration Building
Fax: (301) 952-4958	1301 McCormick Drive, 2nd Floor
	Largo, Maryland 20774

FAV TESTIMONY for HB102 ('22)_ CMTomDernoga_fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Tom Dernoga

Position: FAV



Thomas E. Dernoga
Council Member
District 1

January 18, 2022

Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building
6 Bladen St., Room 251
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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Position: Support

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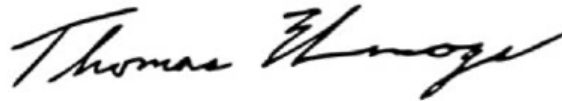
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This is the right thing to do and I firmly stand with Delegate Lehman in supporting this legislation. For the reasons stated above, I respectfully request a **favorable report** for HB 102. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas E. Dernoga". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "T" and "D".

Thomas E. Dernoga

Telephone: (301) 952-3887	Wayne K. Curry Administration Building
Fax: (301) 952-4958	1301 McCormick Drive, 2nd Floor
	Largo, Maryland 20774

Letter- re HB102_ Favorable .pdf

Uploaded by: Tom Hucker

Position: FAV



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

TOM HUCKER
Councilmember

Member, Public Safety Committee
Chair, Transportation & Environment Committee

January 20, 2022

Dear members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

The recent uptick in car rallies and speed contests is of great concern to me and my constituents. These events often involve dangerous displays of stunts and reckless driving, the blocking of major arterial roadways, and the incessant, ear-splitting sound of roaring engines and screeching tires. This is the reality that many of my constituents experience all too frequently.

I support the intent behind HB102 to establish a punishment aimed at deterring drivers from participating in these events. By imposing a fine up to \$1000 and making this offense a must appear charge, drivers will think twice about engaging in stunt contests, speed races, and general recklessness. We must continue to consider the legislative tools at our disposal to fundamentally address this dangerous behavior. This represents a step in the right direction towards eliminating these events entirely.

Again, I fully support efforts to empower both law enforcement and the Judiciary to take decisive action that deters participation in car rallies and races. I am committed to working with the sponsor and the committee to ensure a safe environment for Marylanders.

I thank you for considering this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Hucker".

Tom Hucker
Councilmember, District 5
Montgomery County Council

HB_102_Favorable_with_Amendments_Jeremie_Jordan.pdf

Uploaded by: Jeremie Jordan

Position: FWA

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.

Jeramie Jordan

11502 Tyre St

Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

house bill 102.pdf

Uploaded by: Karen Coakley

Position: FWA

Chairman Barve, Vice Chair Stein and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee. My name is Karen Coakley and I am president of the Beltsville Citizen's Association. I want to thank my Delegate Mary Lehman for introducing House Bill 102.

Let me paint a few pictures for you ...you're outside taking a walk and a swarm of bees starts buzzing around you. Clearly this creates some need jerk reactions. Now let's pick up the pace a bit you're driving on the highway going 60 miles an hour and a swarm of 50 plus cars come buzzing by you at excessive speeds picture how you're going to possibly react.

Picture number 2 you are taking a family member to the hospital. You are driving on the inner loop of I-95 near College Park when all of a sudden traffic comes to a standstill. ***FYI the interstate is closed because of those 50 plus buzzing cars I was telling you about This time they've decided to close the inner loop of the beltway so they can do figure "8's" in the middle of the beltway.*** Your arrival at the hospital is delayed so someone can do figure "8's" in the middle of the beltway!!! This actually happened last spring.

Picture number 3 what happens when 1st responder's ambulance, firetrucks and police are also stuck in this traffic so someone can perform stunts!!! In an emergency situation that our 1st every second matters.
Please pass House Bill 102



Respectfully submitted
Karen Coakley
President Beltsville Citizen's Association
4412 Tonquil Street
Beltsville, Maryland 20705

HB 102 - PGCEX - SUP AMD.pdf

Uploaded by: Prince George's County Maryland

Position: FWA



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.