

March 3, 2022

Hello, my name is Chip Sheehan and I am the President and co-owner of Street Smarts of Maryland. Prior to becoming co-owner of Street Smarts, I spent 29 of my 33 years as the lead driving instructor with the United States Secret Service. As the lead driving instructor, I was responsible for teaching driver training to all of the Agents who were selected to drive the President, Vice-President as well as other high-ranking dignitaries who would visit the United States. Based upon my training, knowledge and experience, I am considered a SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT in all aspects of teaching driver training. In addition to having taught driver training all over world, I was also the Agent personally selected to teach the children of several Presidents and Vice-Presidents how to drive.

On the first day after my retirement from the U.S. Secret Service, I was at the MVA Headquarters in Glen Burnie serving on the committee that helped to re-write the current driver education curriculum for the State of Maryland. Since the inception of Street Smarts, myself along with my staff have helped to train over 10,000 new teen drivers in the State of Maryland.

Based upon my knowledge, training and experience, I write to you today to support House Bill 1025 with the following stipulations:

In my opinion, Maryland has a fine driver education curriculum as well an abundance of qualified driver education schools. If Maryland were to allow a self-paced driver education course, then the law should reflect that only licensed MVA driver education schools within the State of Maryland should be able to provide this online curriculum. Should a student need any clarification for any part of the curriculum that they do not understand, then they at least have a resource to call to ask their questions.

Additionally, I would also like to see a requirement that any Maryland driving school that offers such an online, self-paced curriculum must be currently licensed by the State of Maryland and be in good standing with the MVA for at least five consecutive (5) years. I make this recommendation knowing that without such conditions, it would be possible for out-of-state companies to come into Maryland quickly to offer such online driver education courses. As any small business owner knows, it takes many years to build and grow a business and allowing out-of-state companies an opportunity to offer an online driver education course in Maryland could potentially put many of our current driver education companies out of business.

Needless to say, the past two (2) years have been very difficult for all businesses – to include driver education companies here in Maryland. Now that the economy is starting to re-open, I would hope that House Bill 1025 takes into consideration the livelihood of our small, driver education companies and that this bill will only allow licensed Maryland driving schools to offer self-paced, online classes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Chip Sheehan

President

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