



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700 County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

SB 612 State Racing and Exhibition Driving – Prohibited Acts and
Senator Beidle Enforcement
(JPR Committee)

POSITION:

SUPPORT W/AMENDMENTS

SB 612 – Street Racing and Exhibition Driving – Prohibited Acts and Enforcement – This bill alters certain penalties and the points assessments for certain motor vehicle violations related to participation in a race or speed contest; prohibiting a person from engaging in exhibition driving on any highway or private property that is used for driving by the public; prohibiting a person from attending as a spectator certain race or speed contests or any engagement of exhibition driving; and authorizing the towing and impounding of a vehicle involved in a race or speed contest or exhibition driving.

The Prince George's County Council and our residents have witnessed first-hand the incidents of dangerous speeding and racing contests on all of our public roads. It appears this behavior was exacerbated by the COVID Pandemic when empty roadways presented additional opportunities for these illegal activities. The Council believes that additional penalties must be imposed to stem the tide of this behavior that is a threat to human life. Accidents that will occur during these contests will likely lead to severe bodily injury and/or death. The Council believes that those persons that commit these offenses are aware that their actions are illegal and dangerous, therefore, each subsequent repeat offense of this title should result in severe, graduated penalties to the offender. The Council would like to offer the following amendments:

1. Increase penalty from "impounding" to "forfeiture" of vehicle used to commit the offense.
2. Include language that those charged with violations under this statute must appear in court and cannot prepay their penalties and/or fines.

For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council **SUPPORTS SB 612 with Amendments** and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of its position.

Prepared by: Carrington & Associates, LLC
On behalf of the Prince George's County Council

County Administration Building – Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772