



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable William Smith, Jr., Chair and
Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Chief of Staff David Morris, Co-Chair, MCPA, Joint Legislative Committee
Sheriff Darren Popkin, Co-Chair, MSA, Joint Legislative Committee
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: February 24, 2022

RE: **SB 612 – Street Racing and Exhibition Driving – Prohibited Acts and
Enforcement**

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) SUPPORT SB 612. This bill is intended to address public safety situations that occur from street racing and exhibition driving. The bill increases the points on an individual's license and the penalties associated with these activities.

Across Maryland there have been continual concerns regarding the safety upon our roadways due to the reckless and careless driving engaged in by Street Racers and Exhibition Drivers. The actions of these drivers, who often conduct such activities with large groups of competitors and observers, often cause roadways to be closed to other traffic, including first responders in route to provide care for others. They also cause others using our roadways, including pedestrians and bicyclists, to be placed in grave danger due to their actions. These actions include conducting speed contests on our roads, closing roadways with vehicles and human chains, and conducting exhibition driving activities - all with a careless disregard for others. These activities have been ongoing across our state for a number of years and require the passage of legislation in order to properly address such activities, help preserve the safety and welfare of all, and to achieve our goals of reducing traffic and pedestrian related fatalities and injuries.

Legislation recently passed to establish "special event zones" in Ocean City to address these types of events have been extremely effective. SB 612 extends these measures statewide.

SB 612 proposes a reasonable solution to address the egregious behavior of street racing and exhibition driving. For this reason, MCPA and MSA SUPPORT 612 and urge a FAVORABLE Committee report.