



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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SB 612

DATE: February 24, 2022

SPONSOR: Senator Beidle

ASSIGNED TO: Judicial Proceedings

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POSITION: SUPPORT (Montgomery County Department of Police)

Street Racing and Exhibition Driving – Prohibited Acts and Enforcement

Senate Bill 612 would change the penalties and points assessed for motorists engaging in exhibition driving on roadways, authorize towing and impounding of involved vehicles, and prohibit spectators from attending such gatherings. The Montgomery County Department of Police (MCPD) supports this bill.

Exhibition driving means intentionally driving a vehicle in a manner that disturbs the peace by creating unnecessary engine noise, and associated tire squeals or sliding caused by the car's abrupt accelerating and braking. According to MCPD, "car meet-ups" have become increasingly more frequent in the County. They have resulted in unauthorized closures of public roads and have endangered drivers and pedestrians in our communities.

Senate Bill 612 would enhance public safety by sending a strong message to all participants that street racing and exhibition driving is strictly prohibited in Maryland, and that all those engaged in it – drivers and spectators alike – will be penalized. Montgomery County Department of Police supports this legislation and urges the Committee to adopt a favorable report.