



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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SB 87

DATE: January 18, 2022

SPONSOR: Senator Young

ASSIGNED TO: Judicial Proceedings Committee

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**POSITION: SUPPORT (Montgomery County Department of Police and
Montgomery County Department of Transportation)**

Vehicle Laws – Intersections – Prohibited Acts

Senate Bill 87 is a Statewide “Don’t Block the Box” bill prohibiting drivers from entering a signalized intersection on a circular green signal, a green arrow signal, or a steady yellow signal and failing to travel all the way through the intersection before the light changes to red. A vehicle making a left turn at a circular green signal may enter an intersection while yielding the right-of-way to a pedestrian or vehicle approaching from the opposition direction. For right turns, a vehicle may enter an intersection while yielding the right-of-way to pedestrians and bicyclists. Under Senate Bill 87, a police officer can issue a citation for Blocking the Box only if the intersection has been appropriately posted with prohibition signage in accordance with the Maryland Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. Montgomery County Department of Police (MCPD) and Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) support the bill.

Traffic safety and roadway congestion rank among the highest complaints received from residents by law enforcement agencies in Maryland. Gridlock on our roadways is due not only to heavy traffic volumes, but incidents of vehicles entering intersections that cannot be fully cleared before the light changes to red. This can be particularly frustrating during morning and evening rush hour commutes.

Senate Bill 87 aligns with Montgomery County’s Vision Zero action plan focused on adopting road safety strategies that will make a difference in the lives of drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists. MCPD and MCDOT supports the measure for its positive effect on traffic congestion and improved pedestrian and bicycle safety and urge the Committee to adopt a favorable report.