

MARY L. WASHINGTON, PH.D
Legislative District 43
Baltimore City

Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs Committee

Chair
Joint Committee on Ending
Homelessness

Chair
Joint Committee on Children,
Youth, and Families



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SB520 Motor Vehicles - Speed Limits - Establishment and Enforcement
Testimony of Senator Mary Washington
February 17, 2022

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the JPR,

In 2018, Baltimore adopted in City Code a new Complete Streets Ordinance that will alter the transportation landscape of the city. The Complete Streets approach will elevate the priority of pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users in planning and roadway design to increase quality of life and mobility in Baltimore City.

SB520 would authorize Baltimore City to decrease or raise to a previously established level; the maximum speed limit on a highway under its jurisdiction without performing an engineering and traffic investigation.

This bill is in the same posture as HB941 that passed the House (124-11) in 2021, but was not referred to this committee until March 23rd 2021.

Baltimore City's Complete Streets Manual has designated 10 different road types as an engineering document that would be guidance on the decisions to either raise or decrease speed limits.

SB520 also prohibits a local jurisdiction from implementing a new speed monitoring system to enforce speed limits on certain highways; and generally relating to the establishment and enforcement of speed limits on highways. This provision would prevent citizens from feeling like the new decrease in speed limits is a "Trap"

Transportation revitalization is important to Baltimore City's future. It is important that SB520 passes to enable Baltimore to create safer, more accessible and efficient streets and traffic patterns.

I respectfully request a favorable report on SB520.

In Partnership,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mary Washington".

Senator Mary Washington, District 43