



BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Brandon M. Scott
Mayor

Michael S. Harrison
Police Commissioner

TO: The Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Michelle Wirzberger, Esq., Director of Government Affairs, Baltimore Police Dept.

RE: Senate Bill 612 Street Racing and Exhibition Driving – Prohibited Acts and Enforcement

DATE: February 24, 2022

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore Police Department **supports** Senate Bill 612.

Senate Bill 612 creates new penalties for those who participate in a race or speed contest. It also establishes new penalties for those engaging in exhibition driving on any highway or private property that is used for driving by the public and prohibits a person from attending as a spectator certain race or speed contests or exhibition driving

Baltimore City has seen a large increase in exhibition driving events which typically draw hundreds of vehicles that disrupt communities and present dangers to other drivers. We have worked diligently to track these types of events and disrupt them when they occur to ensure the safety of both those attending and those passing by but these additional penalties will help in that effort.

Overall, the Baltimore Police Department believes that this bill would greatly assist in the prevention of crimes and contribute to our ability to provide for the public safety. Therefore, the Baltimore Police Department respectfully requests a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 612.