
January 18, 2022

The Honorable William C. Smith Jr.
Chair, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Support – Senate Bill 147 – Motor Vehicles – Operation When Approaching Disabled Vehicles

Dear Chairman Smith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) supports Senate Bill 147 as it would add an additional level of safety for Maryland's roadway users.

Senate Bill 147 would require drivers to either change lanes or slow their speed when approaching a disabled vehicle, when displaying certain signals, on a highway. MDOT State Highway Administration (SHA) has historically worked with other highway safety entities, such as law enforcement, emergency services, and the private sector, to advocate for the importance of Maryland's "Move Over Law". Senate Bill 147 seeks to impose similar standards, requiring drivers to either "move over" or to make their best effort to "move over" when approaching a disabled vehicle. In 2020, MDOT SHA recorded 10 pedestrian fatalities on roadways due to disabled vehicles. MDOT SHA is committed to achieving the statewide goal of reaching zero fatalities on Maryland's roadways. In enacting this requirement, the State would be helping to further highway users, including disabled motorists.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee grant Senate Bill 147 a favorable report.

Respectfully Submitted,

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