

Department of Transportation – Vehicle Litter Repo

Uploaded by: Joanne C. Benson

Position: FAV

JOANNE C. BENSON
Legislative District 24
Prince George's County

—
Finance Committee

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Joint Committees

Children, Youth, and Families

Ending Homelessness

Fair Practices and State Personnel Oversight

Management of Public Funds

Protocol



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony of Senator Joanne C. Benson

SB 266: Department of Transportation – Vehicle Litter Reporting Program

This bill will establish a vehicle litter reporting program in the Department of Transportation. The Department of Transportation will be responsible for operating hotlines that will receive littering complaints from motor vehicles. Furthermore, after a complaint is reported to the hotline, the Department of Transportation will notify the vehicle's registered owner. The letter will state that the Department of Transportation hotline reported an alleged act of littering against the driver or passenger of the owner's vehicle. The adverse effects of littering, information about the cost of littered highways and how those costs affect taxpayers, informs that littering is a crime punishable by incarceration, fines, and other penalties and lastly states the letter itself is not a citation. This bill will help encourage economic development in Maryland while discouraging litter in our communities. This program will positively affect the environment and help invigorate the economy of Maryland. We show pride in how our communities look and feel this bill will establish a program that exudes the step of guiding Maryland to be the best that it could be.

Thus, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report for SB 266.
Thank you

SB 266_MTBMA_FWA.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael Sakata

Position: FWA



February 2nd, 2022

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

RE: Senate Bill 266 – FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS – Department of Transportation – Vehicle Litter Reporting Program

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

The Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association (“MTBMA”) has been and continues to serve as the voice for Maryland’s construction transportation industry since 1932. Our association is comprised of 200 members. MTBMA encourages, develops, and protects the prestige of the transportation construction and materials industry in Maryland by establishing and maintaining respected relationships with federal, state, and local public officials. We proactively work with regulatory agencies and governing bodies to represent the interests of the transportation industry and advocate for adequate state and federal funding for Maryland’s multimodal transportation system.

Senate Bill 266 would establish a Vehicle Litter Reporting Program within the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to operate a toll-free hotline to receive complaints of littering from motor vehicles and to notify the registered owners of vehicles of any littering complaints filed against them. This program and the related hotline would be funded out of the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF).

While Senate Bill 266’s stated goal of reducing litter and protecting the environment is a laudable one, MTBMA has concerns about the funding mechanism used to operate the proposed program. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ensuing economic shutdown, and a massive decrease in overall travel statewide, projected TTF revenues have fallen dramatically over the past two years. Because the TTF is the only state revenue source for all of MDOT’s operations, an increase in TTF expenditures in one area without an increase in revenue necessitates cuts in other areas. MTBMA’s current position centers around the concern that the funds to operate Senate Bill 266’s program would result in less money available to fund critical repairs to the roads and bridges that form the backbone of Maryland’s transportation infrastructure. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, combined with traditional underfunding of the state’s road maintenance needs, leads MTBMA to request that, should the body wish to implement this proposed program, another funding source apart from the TTF should be utilized.

We appreciate you taking the time to address this important issue, and we urge a favorable with amendments report on Senate Bill 266.

Thank you,



Michael Sakata
President and CEO

Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association

SB 266_MAA_FWA.pdf

Uploaded by: Rachel Clark

Position: FWA

CHAIRMAN:
Rob Scrivener
VICE CHAIRMAN
Brian Russell

MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION



SECRETARY:
David Slaughter
TREASURER:
Jeff Graf
PRESIDENT:
G. Marshall Klinefelter

February 2nd, 2022

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

RE: Senate Bill 266 – FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS – Department of Transportation – Vehicle Litter Reporting Program

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

The Maryland Asphalt Association (MAA) is comprised of 18 producer members representing more than 47 production facilities, 24 contractor members, 24 consulting engineer firms and 41 other associate members. We proactively work with regulatory agencies to represent the interests of the asphalt industry both in the writing and interpretation of state and federal regulations that may affect our members. We also advocate for adequate state and federal funding for Maryland's multimodal transportation system.

Senate Bill 266 would establish a Vehicle Litter Reporting Program within the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to operate a toll-free hotline to receive complaints of littering from motor vehicles and to notify the registered owners of vehicles of any littering complaints filed against them. This program and the related hotline would be funded out of the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF).

While Senate Bill 266's stated goal of reducing litter and protecting the environment is a laudable one, MAA has concerns about the funding mechanism used to operate the proposed program. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ensuing economic shutdown, and a massive decrease in overall travel statewide, projected TTF revenues have fallen dramatically over the past two years. Because the TTF is the only state revenue source for all MDOT, an increase in TTF expenditures in one area without an increase in revenue necessitates cuts in other areas. MAA's current position centers around the concern that the funds to operate Senate Bill 266's program would result in less money available to fund critical repairs to the roads and bridges that form the backbone of Maryland's transportation infrastructure. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, combined with traditional underfunding of the state's road maintenance needs, leads MAA to request that, should the body wish to implement this proposed program, another funding source apart from the TTF should be utilized.

We appreciate you taking the time to address this important issue, and we urge a favorable with amendments report on Senate Bill 266.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marshall Klinefelter".

Marshall Klinefelter
President
Maryland Asphalt Association