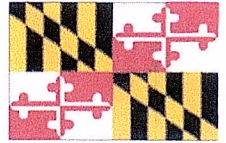




CLYDE BOATWRIGHT  
STATE PRESIDENT

Maryland State Lodge  
**FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE**

8302 COVE ROAD, BALTIMORE, MD 21222



KENNY SCHUBERT  
SECRETARY

EARL KRATSCH  
TREASURER

February 4, 2022

**House Bill 426: Vehicle Laws – Policies and Prohibition Against Discriminatory Traffic Stops**

Dear Chairman Clippinger and Distinguished Members of the Judiciary Committee,

The Maryland State Fraternal Order of Police **OPPOSES** House Bill 426 **Vehicle Laws – Policies and Prohibition Against Discriminatory Traffic Stops**.

The State of Maryland has tracked specific information from all Law Enforcement Officer's Traffic stops for many years now. This information is collected by Police Departments and transmitted annually to the State for compilation and inclusion in a searchable race-based traffic stop database. The purpose of this policy is to use the data to determine possible issues within a Department that need to be addressed through policy, training, or other means. The procedure and the information required are outlined in §25-113 of the Transportation Article.

HB426 looks to expand on the required information to be collected and tracked by adding a person's national origin, religion, gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation to that list. While HB426 looks to increase the demographic characteristics that many individuals have been discriminated against in their daily life throughout the Country, this bill unfairly infers that this discrimination extends to policing as well. HB426 will have unintended consequences that can far outweigh any positive that could possibly be gained by tracking this new data. If Passed, HB426 will have a negative impact on police – citizen contacts as Law Enforcement Officers would then be required to engage in conversations that would be deemed uncomfortable and intrusive by many people as Law Enforcement Officers attempt to obtain this very personal information from drivers on traffic stops.

The information currently required to be collected can be obtained from a driver's registration, license, and obvious physical characteristics. The information that this bill wants to collect are not easily identifiable physical characteristics, not recorded on a registration card or driver's license, and would only become known by requiring the Law Enforcement Officer to ask very personal questions of the vehicle's driver. Many drivers will not want to provide this information and would consider any questions along this nature to be an invasion of their privacy, and for some, outright offensive. This also has the potential to have negative impacts on an officer as the questioning could trigger a complaint that the officer is attempting to determine the immigration status of an individual, which in many jurisdictions, would be illegal.

The fact that a Law Enforcement Officer would have to ask a person for this information goes to the argument that these categories should not be added to the tracking data on traffic stops. There is no way of knowing prior to a traffic stop a person's national origin, religion, gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation, and currently there is no known allegations that any of these categories are specifically used by police as the sole factor to target an individual for a traffic stop.

The Maryland State Lodge asks that you **OPPOSE** House Bill 426 **Vehicle Laws – Policies and Prohibition Against Discriminatory Traffic Stops** by voting **UNFAVORABLE** on this bill.

Sincerely,

Angelo L. Consoli Jr.,

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, FOP, Maryland State Lodge  
President, FOP 89, Prince George's County