



**AAA Mid-Atlantic's Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 208
Street Racing and Exhibition Driving - Prohibited Acts, Enforcement, and
Penalties**

Sponsor: Delegates Kerr and Fair

- AAA Mid-Atlantic **supports House Bill 208**, which increases penalties for those participating in illegal racing or speed contests on Maryland roads; establishes a **statewide ban** on exhibition driving on any highway or private property that is used for driving by the general public; and, authorizes a police officer to order the towing and impounding of a vehicle that is driven in a race or is the subject of an exhibition driving violation.
- The bottom line is—speed kills—and our roadways and parking lots are not race tracks.
- Recently, law enforcement across the country, and here in Maryland, have cited an increase in street racing.
- In May 2019, 19-year old, Zach Friedlander and his dog were killed in Baltimore County as a result of a crash where the driver who hit him was reportedly street racing and driving at 116 mph in a 35 mph zone.
- In 2009, two people were killed and two more were seriously injured in Woodlawn as a result of illegal street racing on Interstate 70.
- And, in 2008, eight people were killed in Prince George's County when the driver of a car that was participating in an illegal race crashed into a crowd of spectators.
- In 2021, according to a **Washington Post article**, Maryland State Police conducted a joint law enforcement initiative focused on speeding and aggressive driving for a four-day period on Interstate 70, which resulted in the issuance of more than 300 traffic citations and warnings.
- While recent research by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety found that even modestly higher speeds at the time of a crash dramatically increase the chances of severe injury and death, these dangerous illegal street races amplify those risks.
- Illegal street racing endangers everyone, including spectators. The reckless and irresponsible actions of those who choose to treat our roads as a race track have resulted in traffic disruption and fatalities on our roads.
- On behalf of AAA Mid-Atlantic's over one million Maryland members, we urge the Committee to give **HB 208 a favorable** report.

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