



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB 208 – Vehicle Laws – Race and Speed Contests – Penalties

SUPPORT

GOOD AFTERNOON MR. CHAIRMAN, MR. VICE CHAIR AND COLLEAGUES. FOR THE RECORD I'M DELEGATE MARY LEHMAN AND TODAY I AM ASKING FOR YOUR FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF HB 208, ENHANCED PENALTIES IN STUNT AND SPEED CONTESTS.

HB 208 CALLS FOR INCREASED PENALTIES FOR DRIVERS IN WHAT IS REFERRED TO AS EXHIBITION DRIVING CONTESTS. IT COVERS STUNT AND HIGH-SPEED DRIVING ON PUBLIC ROADS AND IN PARKING LOTS. WE HAVE VIDEO CLIPS TO SHARE. THE ONE IN DOWNTOWN SILVER SPRING WAS FROM LAST WEEKEND.

CUE VIDEOS!

LAST YEAR, THE COMMITTEE TOOK UP, AMENDED AND PASSED THE SENATE VERSION OF THIS BILL. FORMER GOVERNOR HOGAN VETOED IT BASED ON A CONCERN THAT IT WOULD INTERFERE WITH WORCESTER COUNTY'S ABILITY

UNDER STATE LAW TO CRACK DOWN ON EXHIBITION DRIVING IN OCEAN CITY.
THOSE CONCERNS HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED.

THERE ARE FOUR MAIN DETERRENTS IN THIS BILL THAT WILL HELP REDUCE THE
NUMBER OF THESE CONTESTS AND SEND A CLEAR MESSAGE TO IN-STATE AND OUT-
OF-STATE DRIVERS AND REPEAT OFFENDERS THAT WE TAKE THESE DANGEROUS
CONTESTS SERIOUSLY.

THE BILL DOES FOUR MAIN THINGS:

- FIRST, THE BILL MANDATES A COURT APPEARANCE; CURRENTLY A DRIVER
IN A CAR CONTEST CAN PRE-PAY ANY FINES THAT ARE ASSESSED.
WORCESTER COUNTY HAS BEEN ABLE TO REDUCE SPEED CONTESTS
SIGNIFICANTLY BY REQUIRING MOTORISTS TO GO TO COURT AND FACE A
JUDGE.
- SECONDLY, THE BILL INCREASES THE POINTS ASSESSED AGAINST DRIVERS
CONVICTED OF VIOLATING THIS LAW. DRIVERS WILL RECEIVE 8 POINTS IF
THERE IS NO BODILY INJURY; 12 POINTS IF THE EVENT CAUSES BODILY
INJURY. **THIS IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE** 8 POINTS RESULTS IN THE
SUSPENSION OF A LICENSE; 12 POINTS RESULTS IN REVOKATION.
- THIRDLY, IT AUTHORIZES A FINE OF UP TO \$1,000 UPON CONVICTION FOR A
CONTEST WITH OR WITHOUT BODILY INJURY, UP FROM \$500.
- FINALLY, IT GIVES OFFICERS DISCRETION TO IMPOUND THE VEHICLE WHEN
WARRANTED FOR SAFETY REASONS HAVING TO DO WITH THE CAR OR THE
DRIVER – FOR EXAMPLE THE CAR ITSELF IS UNSAFE OR THE DRIVER HAS A

SUSPENDED LICENSE OR IS UNLICENSED. OFFICERS ALREADY HAVE THIS
DISCRETION FOR OTHER TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS.

MR. CHAIR, COLLEAGUES, THESE CONTESTS HAVE GROWN IN FREQUENCY IN PART
BECAUSE OUR EXISTING LAW IS TOO LAX. ABSENT MORE SERIOUS PENALTIES,
EXHIBITION DRIVING WILL CONTINUE TO BE A SERIOUS PROBLEM. THANK YOU FOR
YOUR CONSIDERATION. I URGE YOUR FAVORABLE REPORT.

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