



Wes Moore  
Governor  
Aruna Miller  
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Paul J. Wiedefeld  
Secretary

March 23, 2023

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve  
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee  
Room 251, House Office Building  
Annapolis MD 21401

***RE: Letter of Information – Senate Bill 249 – Motor Vehicle Administration - Driver Education Program – Cannabis or Alcohol***

Dear Chair Barve and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on Senate Bill 249 but offers the following information for the Committee's consideration.

Senate Bill 249 would require the MDOT Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to include in its driver's education curriculum information relating to the laws and risks of driving under the influence of cannabis or alcohol.

The MVA oversees compliance with curriculum standards taught in the approximately 150 driver's education schools across the State. The MVA develops a standardized curriculum for driver's education schools in the State based on national standards and provides the 10 units in its curriculum for the public to view via its website.

Currently, Unit 9 of the driver's education curriculum addresses impaired driving, including driving while under the effects of cannabis. The MVA's inclusion of cannabis is part of an overall focus on making safe decisions behind the wheel of a motor vehicle and includes alcohol and both illegal and legal drug use in combination with driving. This portion of the curriculum includes discussion about the legal consequences of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol, including cannabis. Talking points also include how the effects of cannabis and alcohol on the body impact driving abilities.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests that the Committee consider this information when deliberating Senate Bill 249.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine E. Nizer  
Administrator  
Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration  
410-787-7830

Pilar Helm  
Director of Government Affairs  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
410-865-1090