



SafeRoadsMD

**HB208**

**“Street Racing and Exhibition Driving – Prohibited Acts, Enforcement, and Penalties”**

**PLEASE SUPPORT**

**MARYLAND COALITION FOR ROADWAY SAFETY, INC.  
URGES YOUR SUPPORT FOR HB208**

February 7, 2023

TO:

Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair  
Honorable Dana Stein, Vice Chair  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
Honorable Members of the Committee  
Room 251  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

FROM:

John J. Seng, Chair  
SafeRoadsMD - *Maryland Coalition For Roadway Safety, Inc.*  
[JohnJSeng@gmail.com](mailto:JohnJSeng@gmail.com) (202) 468-7682  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/marylandcoalitionhighwaysafety>

My name is John Seng, volunteer Chair and founder of the *Maryland Coalition For Roadway Safety, Inc.*

Our 200+ member organization **strongly supports the enactment of HB208, the “Street Racing and Exhibition Driving – Prohibited Acts, Enforcement, and Penalties” bill.**

**We request that the House Environment and Transportation Committee submit a favorable review of this bill to address a major threat to public safety and the welfare of our communities.**

**The Problem**

**It’s truly “battle stations.”** The public is fed up. Frankly, authorities are long overdue to take significant steps to stem the increased tide of mayhem on our streets, roads, bridges and town centers. Our roadways and intersections erupt into chaotic, dangerous playgrounds, caused by individuals who size up law enforcement and government as too weak-willed and ill-equipped to discourage or intervene.

People in municipalities across Maryland and residents are threatened by overt lawless behavior in the form of street racing, rallies, tire burnouts, and on and on. This as-yet unchecked behavioral trend erodes confidence in government and its ability to enforce laws that exist to benefit – and especially – protect all.

We recognize the potential for serious injury and death as real and frightening. And please consider the disruption to businesses and homeowners. What’s more, this behavior further taxes an already strained, embattled and understaffed police departments.

Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety, Inc. PO Box 7, Olney, Maryland 20830

## **Take This Necessary Step Towards A Solution**

SafeRoadsMD agrees with the Bill's sponsors that **the best answer is to markedly increase sanctions to deter criminal behavior**. Increase the cost of illegal and unruly harmful behavior.

The strengthened and, importantly, when published and enforced sanctions of HB208 will send a powerful message that Maryland lawmakers take this growing problem seriously and intend to restore safety and calm on roads and in communities: That continued roadway disruptions will not be tolerated, and violators will face serious sanctions.

## **Maryland Lawmakers Can Create A Maryland Road Safety Legacy!**

As we've shared in submitting comments on potential Maryland General Assembly draft road safety legislation: Is it possible that the Maryland General Assembly could boldly take a preeminent, leadership role during this 2023 session by sending the message to the public and the legal system that Maryland lawmakers put 100% into ensuring that safety comes first? Can the Maryland General Assembly join with Governor Moore to ensure that **no one and nothing's left behind in making roadway safety a #1 priority?**

## **Background – SafeRoadsMD – Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety, Inc.**

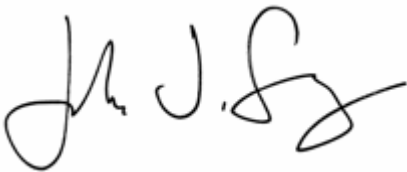
Our founding organizations include the *American Automobile Association (AAA) Mid-Atlantic*, the *Greater Olney Civic Association (GOCA)*, *The Route 210 Traffic Safety Committee* in Prince George's County and a group of Maryland home owner associations. Alarmed by growing roadway violence in Maryland, we were established to call more attention to and combat the onslaught of speed and noise on our roads. The *Coalition* represents the interests of communities and individuals who directly suffer the consequences of illegal operation of motor vehicles.

The persistent toll that should concern us all? **2023 finished poorly as the sixth consecutive year in which between 500-600 people died from Maryland roadway violence.**

## **You Can Do It!**

We thank you and the Committee for your review of our position, and urge you to submit a favorable recommendation and support for HB208.

Sincerely,



John J. Seng  
Chair

cc: Governor Wes Moore; Ragina Ali, AAA MidAtlantic; Greater Olney Civic Association (GOCA); SafeRoadsMD *Coalition* Board of Directors and membership