

**PAMELA G. BEIDLE**  
*Legislative District 32*  
Anne Arundel County

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Finance Committee

Chair, Executive Nominations Committee

Spending Affordability Committee

Joint Committee on Gaming Oversight

Joint Committee on Management of  
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Chair, Anne Arundel County  
Senate Delegation



James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 202  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3593 · 301-858-3593  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3593  
Pamela.Beidle@senate.state.md.us

**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

March 8, 2023

**SB 682**

**Maryland Transportation Authority – Chesapeake Bay Bridge – Safety Barriers**

Good Afternoon Chair Griffith, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and Members of Finance;

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB 682, Maryland Transportation Authority – Chesapeake Bay Bridge – Safety Barriers. SB682 would require barriers be put in place to discourage and stop a senseless loss of life. The most recent was last week.

There are several types of safety barriers in use across the country including - netting and metal or glass fencing barriers:

- The Golden Gate Bridge is an example of the use of gray steel net placed approximately 20 feet below the bridge sidewalk and extending 20 feet out from the Bridge. The design was chosen by a public process and will allow the iconic views to remain intact.
- DC has used 8-foot-tall metal fencing curving inward on the Ellington Bridge.

Both types have been found to be effective. Also, it is important to note that suicidal thoughts are often short lived, those stopped in the process do not always move on to another site or method.

The fiscal note is high, however there are factors regarding costs to consider:

- the cost of a life that is saved,
- the cost of dispatching first responder's - every time an event occurs,
- the cost to commerce, and
- the cost of inconvenience to commuters.

I respectfully request a favorable report on SB 682.

Chesapeake Bay Bridge  
 Persons Committing Suicide, Persons Attempting Suicide  
 2014-2021

\*Persons attempting suicide includes any incident when a suicidal person stopped on the bridge and successful intervention took place.

2014	Persons Committing Suicide	Persons Attempting Suicide
January	0	0
February	0	0
March	0	0
April	0	0
May	0	0
June	0	0
July	0	0
August	0	0
September	1	0
October	0	1
November	1	1
December	0	0
Total	2	2

2015	Persons Committing Suicide	Persons Attempting Suicide
January	0	0
February	0	1
March	1	0
April	0	1
May	0	0
June	0	0
July	0	1
August	0	1
September	1	0
October	1	0
November	0	0
December	0	0
Total	3	4

2016	Persons Committin g Suicide	Persons Attemptin g Suicide
January	0	0
February	0	0
March	1	0
April	0	0
May	0	3
June	0	0
July	0	0
August	1	0
Septembe r	0	0
October	0	1
November	0	0
December	0	1
Total	2	5

2017	Persons Committin g Suicide	Persons Attemptin g Suicide
January	0	0
February	0	0
March	0	0
April	1	1
May	1	0
June	0	0
July	0	0
August	0	0
Septembe r	0	0
October	0	0
November	1	0
December	0	0
Total	3	1

2018	Persons Committin g Suicide	Persons Attemptin g Suicide
January	0	0
February	0	0
March	0	0
April	0	1
May	1	1
June	1	0
July	0	0
August	0	1
Septembe r	1	0
October	2	1
November	1	1
December	1	0
Total	7	5

2019	Persons Committin g Suicide	Persons Attemptin g Suicide
January	0	0
February	0	0
March	1	0
April	0	2
May	1	0
June	0	1
July	1	0
August	0	0
Septembe r	1	0
October	0	0
November	0	0
December	1	1
Total	5	4

2020	Persons Committin g Suicide	Persons Attemptin g Suicide
January	3	0
February	1	1
March	0	0
April	0	2
May	1	0
June	0	1
July	0	0
August	2	2
Septembe r	1	1
October	0	1
November	0	2
December	0	0
Total	8	10

2021	Persons Committin g Suicide	Persons Attemptin g Suicide
January	0	0
February	0	1
March	0	0
April	0	0
May	0	1
June	1	0
July	1	0
August	0	0
Septembe r	0	0
October	0	0
November	0	0
December	0	0
Total	2	2