



Testimony of

American Property Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA)

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

SB 676 Drugged Driving - Cannabis-Impaired Driving Test Pilot Program - Establishment

March 8, 2023

Support

The American Property Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA) is the primary national trade association for home, auto, and business insurers. Our members write approximately 55.7 percent of all private passenger auto insurance sold in Maryland and 82.7% of all commercial auto insurance sold in Maryland. APCIA respectfully supports Senate Bill 676.

Senate Bill 676 will establish a pilot program to examine the effectiveness of cannabis-impaired driving tests in enforcing the prohibition against driving while impaired by drugs and authorize a police officer in a participating jurisdiction to administer voluntary cannabis-impaired driving tests if the officer has reasonable grounds to believe an individual is or has been driving or attempting to drive a motor vehicle while the individual is impaired by cannabis. APCIA strongly supports increased scientific research to develop objective marijuana impairment standards for auto and workplace safety and medical efficacy. APCIA has partnered with the Insurance Bureau of Canada to compare laws and standards given that the country legalized marijuana in October of 2018. Their impairment standards are a combination of Colorado and Oregon with alcohol use supplements integrated. We continue to support strong law enforcement standards for marijuana safety, including law enforcement training. Without a reliable impairment standard, the best method of detecting and prosecuting impaired drivers is a well-trained law officer able to identify the signs of impairment. Programs such as Advanced Roadside Impairment Training (ARIDE) and Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) training provides key support for law enforcement. APCIA also continues to support the promotion of increased awareness and education for the public and policymakers on the dangers of marijuana impaired driving or working.

For all these reasons, the APCIA urges the Committee to provide a favorable report on Senate Bill 676.

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