

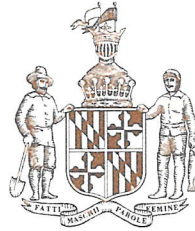
NANCY J. KING  
*Legislative District 39*  
Montgomery County

MAJORITY LEADER

Budget and Taxation Committee

*Chair*

Education, Business and  
Administration Subcommittee



James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 120  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
301-858-3686 · 410-841-3686  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3686  
Fax 301-858-3670 · 410-841-3670  
Nancy.King@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Senate Bill 940 – Motor Vehicles – Allowing Unauthorized Use of A Motor Vehicle  
and Reckless, Negligent, and Aggressive Driving**

March 6, 2024

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

Preliminary data by Maryland Motor Vehicle Association's Highway Safety Office indicate that last year 605 people died on Maryland roadways, with speed being a factor in 161 fatalities and aggressive driving was a factor in 69 fatal crashes. There are continued concerns about the safety of our roadways due to reckless and aggressive driving. Drivers, pedestrians, cyclists and workers are all being put in harm's way by the actions of drivers who operate their motor vehicles with blatant disregard for public safety.

Senate Bill 940 seeks to address the issues of reckless, negligent and aggressive driving in several ways: First it will authorize a fine not to exceed \$1000 for anyone who knowingly permits a motor vehicle owned by them to be driven by a person who is not authorized to drive. Next it adds driving at a speed exceeding 90 miles per hour to the list of offenses that qualifies as reckless driving and increases the fine for those violations to \$5000 and/or imprisonment not exceeding 1 year. The bill will also expand the list of violations that qualify as aggressive driving and require that a person charged with a violation appear in court. They may not just prepay the fine. And finally, it increases the fines for first and multiple offenses.

We must act before more people are seriously injured or lose their lives at the hands of reckless, aggressive, and negligent drivers. People who disregard the rules of the road and operate their motor vehicles in a dangerous and deadly way need to be held accountable and so I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 940.