



Wes Moore
Governor
Aruna Miller
Lieutenant Governor
Paul J. Wiedefeld
Secretary

February 22, 2024

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee
251 House Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401

RE: Letter of Information – House Bill 737 – Vehicle Laws – Slow Moving Vehicles – Right-Hand Lane

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) offers the following information for the Committee's consideration on House Bill 737.

House Bill 737 expands, to all Maryland roadways, the requirement for a vehicle traveling slower than the general speed of traffic to drive in right-hand travel lanes.

Currently, the requirement to keep right is limited to interstate highways in rural areas, where road congestion is traditionally less of an issue and where there are fewer traffic patterns requiring left lane exits or alignments. Any positive outcomes of House Bill 737 would be hard to quantify, and violations of the policy would be difficult to identify in areas with more frequent congestion and complex traffic patterns.

Additionally, the State Highway Administration (SHA) must inform slower drivers of the requirement to keep right on interstates located in a rural area by placing and maintaining signs at regular intervals on appropriate highways and through the dynamic message sign system located throughout the State. If House Bill 737 were to pass, SHA would be required to make a significant investment in new signs throughout the State to inform slower drivers of the requirement to keep right. While the exact impact of this requirement depends on the number of applicable roadways and the number of new signs that would be required to effectively communicate this message, SHA estimates that approximately 1,000 signs would need to be installed at an approximate cost of \$500,000 for installation.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information when deliberating House Bill 737.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Mickler
Deputy Director (Acting)
Office of Policy and Research
Maryland State Highway Administration
410-545-5629

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