

House Bill 298 - Favorable WITH AMENDMENTS
Environment and Transportation Committee

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee;

First, I'd like to say that I really appreciate the name of this bill, MOVE GET OUT THE WAY Act. However, I think it's Ludacris (see what I did there?) to impose a fine for the first infraction, and such steep fines for subsequent infractions. I also believe that it would create a dangerous situation for someone to have to keep moving to the left and then back over to the right every time they want to overtake someone; we have enough of a weaving problem on the roads. Instead, I think it makes sense to allow them to stay in the left lane until a vehicle approaches from behind, then safely "move out the way" to the right until they need to move to the left again to overtake another vehicle.

I'd also like for the bill to be further amended to make clear that a vehicle in the left lane that wants to go faster than a vehicle ahead of it in the left lane has NO MORE OF A RIGHT to the left lane as long as the vehicle in front of it is still overtaking a vehicle to its right. In other words, if the people in the 3rd lane from the right are going 60 mph, and the vehicle who moves to the left lane wants to go 65 mph, then a vehicle that comes up behind them at 80 mph doesn't have priority over the left lane even though they want to go faster than the 65 mph vehicle.

So I'd like for you to give HB 298 a favorable report if the amendments I've expressed are included. Otherwise, I'm happy to keep shouting the song when people are driving slowly in the left lane.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Debi Jasen
Pasadena, MD