



Wes Moore, Governor  
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor  
Josh Kurtz, Secretary  
David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary

---

April 2, 2024

BILL NUMBER: **Senate Bill 902 - Third Reader**

SHORT TITLE: **Wildlife – Protections and Highway Crossings**

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: **LETTER OF INFORMATION**

### EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT'S POSITION

---

The Department provides this letter of information on this legislation. The Department appreciates the sponsors intent to mitigate wildlife and vehicular interactions all while also protecting wildlife through biological sound crossing. However, this bill would require the Department to accomplish a series of tasks and take on additional duties and without necessary funding to accomplish the requirements of the legislation.

We appreciate the sponsors of this legislation having a continuous dialogue with the Department, and will continue to determine how to take necessary action to mitigate wildlife and vehicular interactions.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

---

Wildlife interactions with traffic are an important issue in Maryland. Automobile strikes with large animals are a source of physical danger and economic hardship for Maryland citizens. Automobile strikes of rare, Threatened and Endangered species can have detrimental impacts upon animal populations and conservation initiatives. Roads can serve to fragment habitats and isolate wildlife populations or to limit access to nesting or migrating areas.

### BILL EXPLANATION

---

Senate Bill 902 would take a holistic approach to wildlife interaction with road networks and automobiles by creating a funding source for mitigating the negative effects of both collisions and habitat fragmentation by:

- Developing technology to mitigate wildlife interactions with automobiles.
- Creating a state-wide deer monitoring and management system.
- Building wildlife-friendly road crossing structures, connection infrastructure, and exclusion devices.
- Maintaining wildlife crossing structures.
- Providing a grant fund for local governments to install and operate mitigative wildlife crossing structures.
- Requiring enhanced interaction between the Departments of Natural Resources and Transportation.

Contact: Dylan Behler, Director, Legislative and Constituent Services  
dylan.behler@maryland.gov ♦ 410-260-8113 (office) ♦ 443-924-0891 (cell)