

MCPA-MSA_SB 442_Street Racing and Exhibition Drivi

Uploaded by: Andrea Mansfield

Position: FAV



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Marc Korman., Chair and
Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Darren Popkin, Executive Director, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Natasha Mehu, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: March 21, 2024

RE: **SB 442 – Street Racing and Exhibition Driving – Prohibited Acts,
Enforcement, and Penalties**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT SB 442**. This bill is intended to address public safety situations that occur from street racing and exhibition driving. The bill increases the points on an individual's license and the penalties associated with these activities.

Across Maryland, there have been continual concerns regarding the safety of our roadways due to the reckless and careless driving engaged in by Street Racers and Exhibition Drivers. The actions of these drivers, who often conduct such activities with large groups of competitors and observers, often cause roadways to be closed to other traffic, including first responders enroute to provide care for others. They also cause others using our roadways, including pedestrians and bicyclists, to be placed in grave danger due to their actions. These actions include conducting speed contests on our roads, closing roadways with vehicles and human chains, and conducting exhibition driving activities - all with a careless disregard for others. These activities have been ongoing across our state for several years and require legislation to properly address such activities, help preserve the safety and welfare of all, and achieve our goals of reducing traffic and pedestrian-related fatalities and injuries. Legislation recently passed to establish "special event zones" in Ocean City to address these types of events has been extremely effective.

SB 442 extends these measures statewide. SB 442 proposes a reasonable solution to address the egregious behavior of street racing and exhibition driving.

For this reason, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT SB 442** and urge a **FAVORABLE** Committee report.

MML-SB 442 - Street Racing Prohibition - In House-

Uploaded by: Bill Jorch

Position: FAV



Maryland Municipal League
The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

March 21, 2024

Committee: House Environment and Transportation

Bill: SB 442 - Street Racing and Exhibition Driving - Prohibited Acts, Enforcement, and Penalties

Position: Favorable

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) supports Senate Bill 442 which prohibits exhibition driving and authorizes local governments state-wide to designate a “special event zone” on roadways under their jurisdiction. These changes will significantly improve roadway safety by addressing the problem of exhibition driving.

Expressly defining and prohibiting exhibition driving on all public roads sends a clear message that this type of behavior is dangerous and a problem across Maryland. Currently, only in Worcester County can a local government designate a “special event zone” and see the additional benefits of doing so. In a “special event zone,” a local government can lower the speed limit further and add additional signage indicating penalties for certain violations. SB 442 expands the authority to designate a “special event zone” to local governments state-wide.

One municipality, Ocean City, has used this authority to promote roadway safety during auto events. “Special event zones” have helped the city to implement additional safety measures at events that draw a high number of motor vehicles and pedestrians in a crowded area.

The provisions of SB 442 should significantly assist municipal governments promote roadway safety through the prohibition of exhibition generally and a new state-wide authority for local governments to establish “special event zones.” For these reasons, the League respectfully requests that the committee provide Senate Bill 442 with a favorable report.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Theresa Kuhns

Chief Executive Officer

Angelica Bailey Thupari, Esq.

Director, Advocacy & Public Affairs

Bill Jorch

Director, Public Policy & Research

Justin Fiore

Deputy Director, Advocacy & Public Affairs

SB0442 (House)_FAV_City of Rockville_Street Racing

Uploaded by: Christine Krone

Position: FAV



**Testimony of the Mayor and Council of Rockville
SB 442 – Street Racing and Exhibition Driving – Prohibited Acts, Enforcement,
and Penalties
SUPPORT**

The Rockville Mayor and Council are thankful to Chair Korman for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of SB 442.

The Rockville Mayor and Council unanimously support SB 442. Increasingly, car meetups are causing public safety threats and noise disruptions in Maryland communities. Car meetups involve large numbers of motorists engaging in dangerous driving on public and private roads near crowds of people. This activity poses a serious risk of injury to those who walk, bike, drive, and heightens the potential for property damage. Recent car meetups that have occurred in Montgomery County include Silver Spring, Takoma Park, and the City of Rockville. Due to the high volume of cars and people, Police are unable to chase the vehicles. Law enforcement is limited to trying to disperse the vehicles and crowds. Current law is insufficient to address this dangerous activity, as most offenders can only be charged with traffic violations.

We support SB 442 for the following reasons:

- This legislation provides the Police with new tools to address this increasing threat to public safety.
- The bill prohibits exhibition driving on any highway or private property that is used for driving by the public.
- The legislation also alters certain penalties and points assessments for certain motor vehicle violations related to participation in a race or speed contest.
- Individuals that are convicted of a violation that results in serious injury to another person is subject to a fine, prison time, or both.
- The bill expands authority for local governments to designate a highway under its jurisdiction as a special event zone to ensure public safety.

SB 442 is urgently needed legislation that provides law enforcement with the necessary authority to address this dangerous behavior and keep our communities safe. It is our understanding that SB 442 and its House crossfile, HB 601, have been amended to conform with one another. Rockville is supportive of the bill language as it currently stands. For these reasons, we urge the Committee to provide SB 442 with a favorable report.

Carrington 2024 - HB601 SB442 Race and Exhibition

Uploaded by: Darrell Carrington

Position: FAV



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

HB 601\SB 442 State Racing and Exhibition Driving – Prohibited Acts and
Delegates Lehman, et al. Enforcement
(ENT)
Senators Beidle, et al.
(JPR)

POSITION:

SUPPORT

HB 601\SB 442 – Street Racing and Exhibition Driving – Prohibited Acts and Enforcement – This bill alters certain penalties and the points assessments for certain motor vehicle violations related to participation in a race or speed contest; prohibiting a person from engaging in exhibition driving on any highway or private property that is used for driving by the public; prohibiting a person from attending as a spectator certain race or speed contests or any engagement of exhibition driving; and authorizing the towing and impounding of a vehicle involved in a race or speed contest or exhibition driving.

The Prince George's County Council and our residents have witnessed first-hand the incidents of dangerous speeding and racing contests on all of our public roads. It appears this behavior was exacerbated by the COVID Pandemic when empty roadways presented additional opportunities for these illegal activities. The Council believes that additional penalties must be imposed to stem the tide of this behavior that is a threat to human life. Accidents that will occur during these contests will likely lead to severe bodily injury and/or death. The Council believes that those persons that commit these offenses are aware that their actions are illegal and dangerous, therefore, each subsequent repeat offense of this title should result in severe, graduated penalties to the offender.

For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council **SUPPORTS HB 601\SB442** and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of its position.

Prepared by: Carrington & Associates, LLC
On behalf of the Prince George's County Council

SB 442 SUPPORT (March 2024).pdf

Uploaded by: Dawn Luedtke

Position: FAV



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

DAWN LUEDTKE
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 7

March 19, 2024

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

RE: Senate Bill 442, *Street Racing and Exhibition Driving - Prohibited Acts, Enforcement, and Penalties*

Dear Chair Korman:

I write in strong support of Senate Bill 442, which increases the penalties for motor vehicle violations related to participation in a race or speed contest and exhibition driving on any highway or private property that is used by the public for driving.

In the past four years, there has been a significant increase in exhibition driving events, which present dangers to drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists, and other road users. These events involve excessive, abrupt acceleration or deceleration; skidding, squealing, burning, or smoking of tires; swerving or swaying from side to side; the engine producing unreasonably loud, raucous, or disturbing noise; grinding the gears and the backfiring of the engine; the wheels losing contact with the ground; and transporting a passenger on or in an area of a motor vehicle that is not designed or intended for passenger transport such as the hood or roof. Participants often use vehicles and “human chains” to block roadways to other traffic, including first responders on their way to provide emergency care.

These events are invading Maryland streets from Baltimore¹ to Greenbelt² to Takoma Park³. Emboldened by the lack of enforcement and consequences, participants often post videos of, or even live-stream, the events, which frequently draw hundreds of spectators who gather on or around the roadway. It is challenging to crack down on this behavior for several reasons. First, the planners of these events are very

¹<https://www.cbsnews.com/baltimore/news/police-break-up-several-unsanctioned-car-meet-ups-across-baltimore-city-baltimore-county/>

²<https://www.shorenewsnetwork.com/2024/02/11/massive-car-takeover-in-greenbelt-leads-to-police-call-for-backup/>

³<https://moco360.media/2024/02/13/takoma-park-police-warn-about-dangers-of-reckless-car-meet-ups/>

secretive about where and when the meetup will take place, often using a private social media account to broadcast the location(s) where people should congregate. When the police show up, drivers scatter and head to the next location. Additionally, the details of the event often change in real-time, making it difficult for law enforcement to stay ahead of bad actors. It is common for people to swap out license plates and use a false registration while participating, so even if there is video or photographic evidence, the plate could be bogus and the car virtually untraceable. Right now, the best our law enforcement officers can realistically do is hope to identify intel in advance of the event and set up a presence at the proposed location. That is why we need legislation to establish stricter penalties for individuals who choose to engage in this dangerous and disruptive behavior in order to deter future participation.

This kind of driving is not a victimless crime. When a person intentionally jeopardizes the safety of others, that person should face consequences. Drivers participating in these exhibitions and events do so with wanton disregard for others, and can cause serious bodily injury or even death, and law enforcement and the courts must be able to mete out similarly severe consequences for the participants.

I hear from many county residents who are deeply frustrated by the frequent instances of loud engine noise, speeding, and aggressive driving. They report feeling violated and unsafe when exhibition driving events take place in their neighborhood – often very close to their homes. Repeatedly, they ask for increased enforcement and stronger penalties, and are ultimately told that these changes must occur at the state level.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 442 from the Committee.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dawn Luedtke". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Dawn Luedtke

Cc: Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

Department of State Police Position Paper SB 442.p

Uploaded by: Joey Sybert

Position: FAV



State of Maryland
Department of State Police
Government Affairs Section
Annapolis Office (410) 260-6100

POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

DATE: March 21, 2024

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 442 **Position:** Support

BILL TITLE: Street Racing and Exhibition Driving – Prohibited Acts, Enforcement, and Penalties

REVIEW AND ANALYSIS:

This legislation seeks to prohibit a person from engaging in exhibition driving on any highway or private property that is designated for use by the public. This legislation defines exhibition driving, and provides for enhanced penalties, including incarceration, upon conviction. The bill further authorizes local jurisdictions to establish special events zones which allow law enforcement to arrest for certain violations committed within the zone.

The Maryland General Assembly enacted similar legislation in 2019 specific to Ocean City, Maryland in an effort to reduce the dangerous and unlawful operation of motor vehicles during unsanctioned events within the town. The most famous is the H2Oi event. Ocean City historically has three unsanctioned car events throughout the year. With funding from the Maryland Highway Safety Office and partnerships with the Department of State Police and the Worcester County Sheriff's Office, the Ocean City Police Department has made a combined effort to reduce the illegal activities of these events and maintain vehicle and pedestrian safety in the town. Due to the direct impact the law had on violator's in Ocean City, the event organizers have now taken their activities north.

Senate Bill 442 will allow for other jurisdictions throughout the State to use the same law and tools to make their roadways safer. Currently, law enforcement can only issue citations for these types of driving behaviors. If exhibition drivers commit these violations within a special event zone, they are now subject to arrest. This not only prohibits the driver from continuing to drive in this reckless manner, but also acts as a deterrent to driving in this manner in the future.

In jurisdictions throughout the State, there have been countless examples of speed contests and exhibition driving resulting in the death of either participants or spectators. Recently, the Washington Metro area has experienced a number of exhibition driving events, closing the beltway or other roadways. In Montgomery County, approximately one month ago, exhibition drivers and street racers took over an intersection.

The Maryland General Assembly has allowed for the use of speed monitoring cameras in areas known to have such violations, and this legislation will add another tool for law enforcement and local governments to ensure the safety of all persons within the State.

SB 442 expands a known successful program, as demonstrated by Ocean City, statewide to combat this very unsafe driving behavior. For these reasons, the Department of State Police urges the Committee to give Senate Bill 442 a favorable report.

SafeRoadsMD - ENT SB 442 Rec Favorable - Testimony

Uploaded by: John Seng

Position: FAV



SafeRoadsMD

SB 442
“Street Racing and Exhibition Driving – Prohibited Acts, Enforcement, and Penalties”
PLEASE SUPPORT

MARYLAND COALITION FOR ROADWAY SAFETY, INC.
URGES YOUR SUPPORT FOR SB 442

March 19, 2024

TO:

Honorable Delegate Marc Korman, Chair
Honorable Delegate Regina T. Boyce, Vice Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee
Maryland General Assembly
House Office Building, Room 251
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

FROM:

John J. Seng, Chair
SafeRoadsMD - *Maryland Coalition For Roadway Safety, Inc.*
JSeng@SafeRoadsMD.org (202) 468-7682
SafeRoadsMD.org

Dear Mr. Korman and Ms. Boyce:

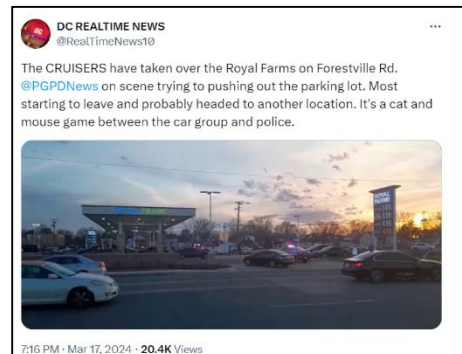
SafeRoadsMD, a four-year old statewide non-profit advocacy organization, **strongly supports the enactment of SB 442, the “Street Racing and Exhibition Driving – Prohibited Acts, Enforcement, and Penalties” bill.**

We respectfully request that the House Environment and Transportation Committee submit a favorable response to this bill to combat not only persistent, but increasing episodes of highly-organized criminal exhibition driving in metropolitan centers and on roads throughout Maryland.

SafeRoadsMD consists of Marylanders who care and speak for all Marylanders concerned about and acting to increase safety on our roads. Over the past three years, we and other groups have lobbied and petitioned for Maryland leaders to take alarm and strengthen the law to increase deterrence and make the problem stop.

Instead, the problem’s metastasized. Just two days ago (March 17) at a Royal Farms fuel station/convenience store in Prince George’s County, the “Cruisers” took over. Please click on the image here:

Throughout recent years, highly organized, tech-savvy criminal gangs hijack our shopping malls and town centers from Baltimore County to Takoma Park to Silver Spring and elsewhere to attract and stoke a mob’s sensory pleasures for their economic gain. It’s the “belly of the beast” in illegal roadway crime.



Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety, Inc. PO Box 7, Olney, Maryland 20830

And your constituents pay the costs of destruction, interruption in services and threat to safety.

Please see the attached evidence. When viewing recordings of the mayhem, **how does one not recognize domestic terrorism?**

Approving SB 442 will begin to knock down the *Welcome to Maryland!* sign for these criminals.

The absence of substantial deterrents and inadequate law enforcement in Maryland invites the conspirators of illegal exhibition meet-ups. These unimpeded street exhibitions advertise Maryland as a street takeover haven where laws about anything and everything don't matter so much. *Look everyone, Maryland tolerates destruction and disruption. Don't mind innocent lives at risk because an ambulance cannot reach them...and shrug-of-the-shoulders that a small business owner loses an entire evening's or weekend's revenues.*

The Time is Now. Please Take The SB 442 Road Towards A Solution.

SafeRoadsMD agrees with SB 442's sponsors that **the best answer is to markedly increase sanctions to deter criminal behavior.**

As you know, cross-filed with HB 601, the strengthened and, importantly, enforced sanctions of SB 442 will send a powerful message that Maryland lawmakers intend to restore safety and calm on roads and in communities: Continued roadway disruptions will not be tolerated, and violators will suffer significant penalties. Increase the cost of illegal and unruly harmful behavior and begin to make it disappear.

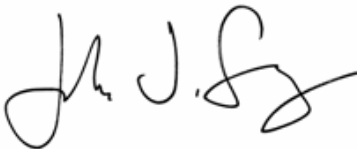
Maryland Lawmakers Can Create a Maryland Road Safety Legacy!

As we've shared with the Environment and Transportation Committee in the past regarding road safety legislation: Is it possible that the Maryland General Assembly could boldly take a preeminent role during this 2024 session by sending the message to the public and the legal system that Maryland lawmakers put 100% into ensuring that road safety comes first? Can the Maryland General Assembly join with Governor Moore to ensure that **no one and nothing's left behind in making roadway safety a #1 priority?**

You Can Do It!

We thank you both and the House Environment and Transportation Committee for your review of our position, and urge you to submit a favorable recommendation and support for SB 442.

Sincerely,

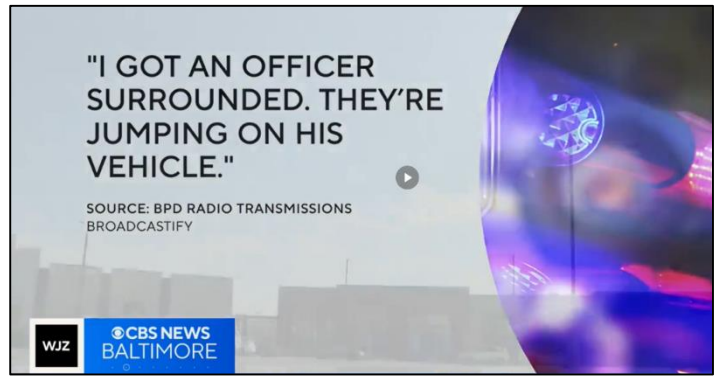


John J. Seng
Chair

Attachments: *They're Setting Our Roads On Fire! Maryland 2023*
Exhibition Driving Spree, Request – Exhibition Driving Bills – January 2024

cc: Governor Wes Moore
Senator Pamela Beidle, Senator Malcolm Augustine, Senator Dawn Gile
Delegate Mary Lehman
Ragina Ali, AAA MidAtlantic
SafeRoadsMD *Coalition* Board of Directors

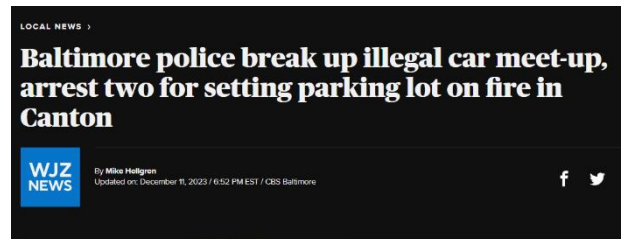
Please Support Maryland Street Racing and Exhibition Driving Legislation Recently Introduced In The 2024 Maryland General Assembly.



SafeRoadsMD (Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety, Inc.) is helping the sponsors of two new bills cross-filed in the Senate (SB 442) by Sen. Pamela Beidle (District 32) and in the House (HB 601) by Del. Mary Lehman (District 21) to address the growing preponderance of illegal street racing, exhibition driving and car meet-ups on Maryland roads, city centers and shopping plazas. Your advocacy to support safer roadways is crucial.



Building upon previous legislation, this new set of bills aims to more strongly deter prohibited acts such as engaging in racing, speeding or other exhibition driving, especially that which causes serious bodily injury to another person. **To sample the road violence, hazards and disruption, please click on the html links at each of the images in this document.** Contact John Seng JSeng@SafeRoadsMD.org to share your willingness to advocate.



THEY'RE SETTING OUR ROADS ON FIRE!

Q: WHY DOES MARYLAND ATTRACT CRIMINAL RAMPAGE ROAD VIOLENCE?

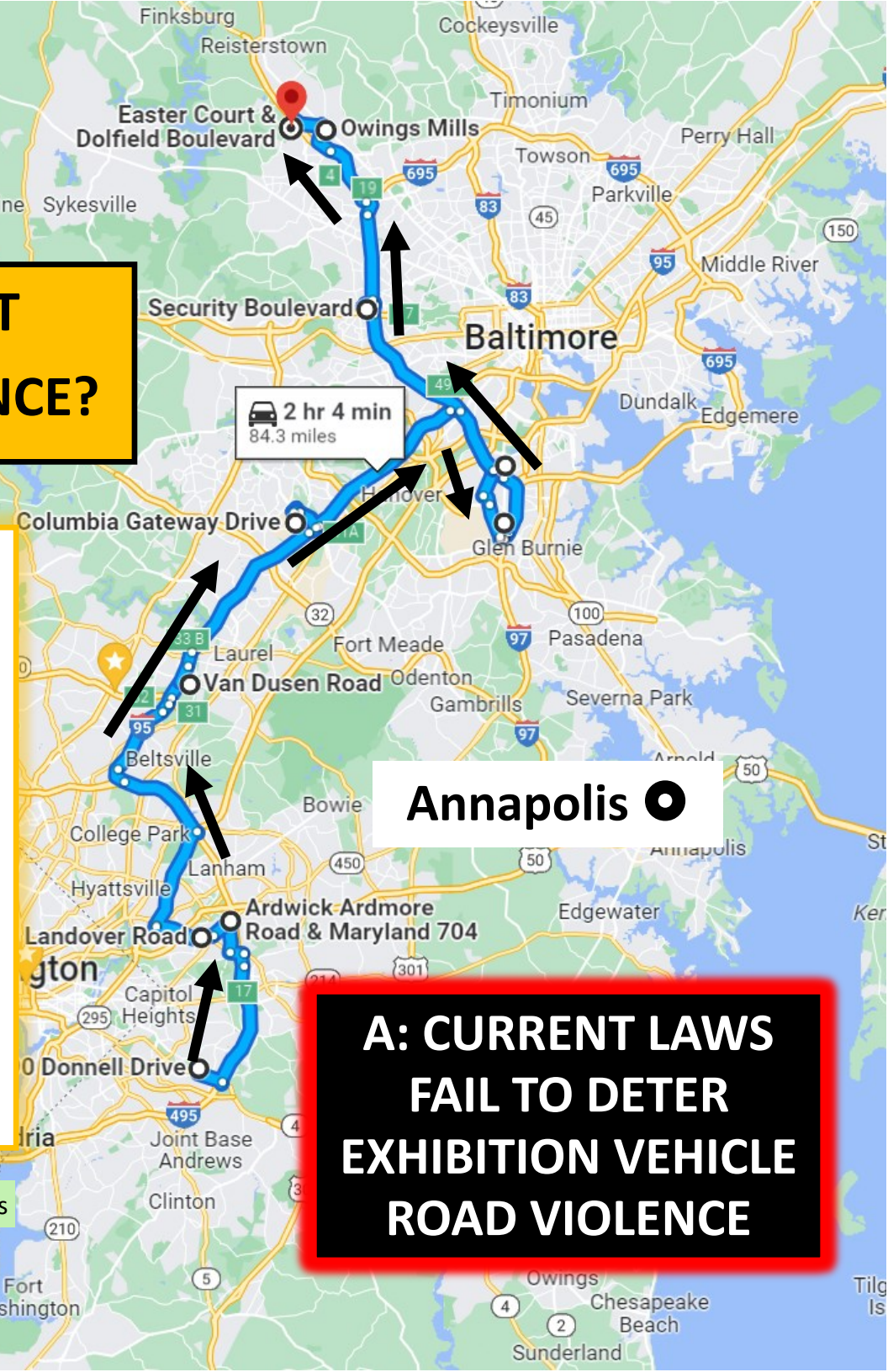
Maryland Roads Criminal Caravan Weekend

Sat-Sun March 25-26, 2023 Road Violence Chaos At a Glance

An organized, massive caravan plowed through Maryland: Night-time street takeovers, exhibition driving, blocked intersections, treacherous maneuvers, 300-plus size crowds, rings of gasoline fires, people hanging on cars, pedestrian struck by car, crowd members launching fireworks at police, burnouts, multiple automobiles racing, stolen vehicles & stunt car crashes.

- 8-1/2 hours non-stop mayhem, covering 85 miles, 10 different locales
- 4 counties (Prince George's, Anne Arundel, Howard, Baltimore)
- Hundreds of vehicles & people from Virginia, Maryland & elsewhere
- Cost to Maryland taxpayers: Untold tens of thousands of dollars in overtime pay & other extraordinary costs and safety risks for law enforcement & other first responders, public roads & private property damage; costs of disruption to Maryland communities and motorists

Source: Manis Canning & Associates



A: CURRENT LAWS FAIL TO DETER EXHIBITION VEHICLE ROAD VIOLENCE

SB442 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Pamela Beidle

Position: FAV

PAMELA G. BEIDLE
Legislative District 32
Anne Arundel County

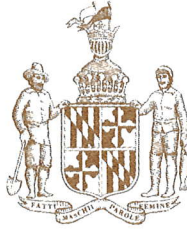
Chair, Finance Committee

Executive Nominations Committee

Joint Committee on Gaming Oversight

Joint Committee on Management
of Public Funds

Spending Affordability Committee



Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Suite 3 East
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3593 · 301-858-3593
800-492-7122 Ext. 3593
Pamela.Beidle@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 19, 2024

SB 442

Street Racing and Exhibition Driving – Prohibited Acts, Enforcement & Penalties

Good afternoon, Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce and Members of Environment and Transportation;

Thank for the opportunity to discuss SB 422, Street Racing and Exhibition Driving. We are continuing to see this activity known as “Street Racing” escalate on our State’s roadways. Recently at a downtown Silver Spring intersection, multiple cars were seen doing donuts in the busy intersection blocking through traffic. It is not just a local problem; it is happening across the State.

SB 442 passed the Senate 44 to 0; it is in the same posture as it’s cross-fille HB 601 that passed out of this committee and the House.

It is time to put an end to this dangerous activity. I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 442.

SB0442 - TSO -Street Racing and Exhibition Driving

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: FAV

March 21, 2024

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

***Re: Letter of Support – Senate Bill 442 – Street Racing and Exhibition Driving -
Prohibited Acts, Enforcement, and Penalties***

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) strongly supports Senate Bill 442 as a strategy to deter dangerous driving behavior and help the State achieve its goal of zero motor vehicle-related fatalities or serious injuries by 2030 on our roadways.

Senate Bill 442 proposes to establish penalties and points assessments for motor vehicle violations related to participation in a race or speed contest. Some of these penalties include prohibiting a person from engaging in exhibition driving on any highway or private property that is used for driving by the public.

MDOT supports Senate Bill 442, as it stands as a crucial step towards safeguarding our communities by enhancing public safety measures. By promoting accountability and discouraging dangerous driving behavior, Senate Bill 442 seeks to protect the community at large and deter activity that could cause irreparable harm. Ensuring that the State's roadways and facilities are safe is MDOT's top priority.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee grant Senate Bill 442 a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

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

SB0442-ET_MACo_SUP.pdf

Uploaded by: Sarah Sample

Position: FAV



Senate Bill 442

Street Racing and Exhibition Driving – Prohibited Acts, Enforcement, and Penalties

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Environment and Transportation Committee

Date: March 21, 2024

From: Sarah Sample

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 442. This bill establishes prohibited acts, penalties, and enforcement for exhibition driving. Additionally, it authorizes statewide procedures for special sanctioned street racing and exhibition driving events in local jurisdictions.

Unauthorized and reckless exhibition driving has been increasing in Maryland, with a number of counties citing serious safety and quality of life concerns as a result. The bill's prohibitions and penalties make clear that individuals engaging in these restricted behaviors will be held accountable for the threat it poses to public safety.

Almost equally as important, the bill understands that local jurisdictions might opt to sanction temporary, safe, and controlled environments for drivers to perform in special event zones, where certain behaviors are specifically permitted. This authorization and flexibility further enable local governments to consider the needs and concerns of a wider range of residents and their interests.

Counties appreciate the comprehensive approach this bill takes to addressing this issue. MACo **urges a FAVORABLE** report on SB 442.

Takoma Park 2024 - SB 442 FAV - Street Racing - Ho

Uploaded by: Talisha Searcy

Position: FAV



CITY TAKOMA OF PARK MARYLAND

Support Senate Bill 442 - Street Racing and Exhibition Driving – Prohibited Acts, Enforcement, and Penalties

House Environment & Transportation Committee

March 21, 2024

The City of Takoma Park supports and urges favorable consideration of SB 442.

This bill alters penalties and points assessments for vehicle violations related to participation in a race or speed contest and prohibits a person from engaging in exhibition driving on any highway or private property that is used for driving by the public. This bill is critically important to advance public safety as the region faces an increase in illegal street races.

The City of Takoma Park is in a cross-jurisdictional area with borders along Washington, DC as well as Prince George's County and Montgomery County. State highways in the City, like New Hampshire Avenue, are major throughfare for thousands of cars daily connecting Maryland to Washington, DC. However, more importantly, it is a stretch of highway that is heavily traveled by pedestrians commuting between home and work or frequenting local businesses.

On Saturday February 11, 2024, a large crowd of onlookers gathered in the City to watch reckless drivers turn doughnuts and burnouts at the intersection of New Hampshire and Ethan Allen Avenues. The group had the intersection blocked. There were hundreds of cars. And, while our officers were able to eventually take control of the chaotic scene, people could have died.

The actors involved in this incident willingly violated several of Maryland's current traffic laws because there are few consequences for doing so. SB 442 goes a step further than current laws by requiring that persons convicted of a violation be subject to 60 days in jail, up to a \$1,000 fine, or both. Additionally, in cases in which where there is serious bodily injury to another person, the prison sentence increases such that the offender can receive up to 1 year jail time. As an additional deterrent, the bill not only holds drivers accountable but also people who participate in the race such as timekeepers or flagman.

We shouldn't wait until a person dies to act. Takoma Park urges a favorable report on SB 442 so that we can collectively keep our streets safe.