

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 William Smith, Jr., Chair and
Members of the Judicial Proceedings 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: February 13, 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 en route 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.

532 Baltimore Boulevard, Suite 308
Westminster, Maryland 21157
667-314-3216 / 667-314-3236

MML-SB 442 - FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Bill Jorch

Position: FAV



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

TESTIMONY

February 13, 2024

Committee: Senate Judicial Proceedings

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 motor events that take place. 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

SB 442 Maryland State Police Position.pdf

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: February 13, 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 exhibitions driving events, closing the beltway or other roadways. In Montgomery County, approximately two weeks 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.

As written, SB 442 expands the ability of law enforcement to take a successful program, as demonstrated by Ocean City, statewide to combat this very unsafe driving behavior.

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

POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

For these reasons, the Department of State Police urges the Committee to give Senate Bill 442 a favorable report.

02-12-24 sb0442 signed written testimony_000014.pdf

Uploaded by: John Becker

Position: FAV



SafeRoadsMD

Date: February 12, 2024

To: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:
Chair Senator William Smith and Vice Chair Jeff Waldstreicher and All Senator
Members and Staff

Re: **SB 0442**, Sponsored by Senators Beidle, Augustine and Gile.
Street Racing and Exhibition Driving – Prohibited Acts, Enforcement and Penalties

I, John Becker as a member of the Board of Directors of Safe Roads Maryland do hereby submit the following as written testimony in support of the referenced bill and urge the Judicial Proceedings Committee to pass a **Favorable Supporting Report**.

As testimony both written and oral shall be presented to Judicial Proceedings Committee by our Chair, John Seng; I wish to include my support also via written and virtual testimony.

My focus is on the dangers posed by the perpetrators of these events who engage in dangerous and violent threatening acts not only to the general law abiding public but also to law enforcement and potentially first responders (fire and life safety).

It is imperative the State of Maryland provide the tools to the general public and law enforcement in order to reduce and eventually eliminate this hazard of which you have heard a large number of your constituents complain about.

Good Luck!

Regards,

John Becker
Member of the Board of Safe Roads Maryland
PO Box 7
Olney, MD 20832
301-852-9051
jb@saferoadsmd.org

Attachment: (1)

SafeRoadsMD SB 442 Rec Favorable - Testimony Submi

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

February 12, 2024

TO:

Honorable Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
Honorable Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair
Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building
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. Smith and Mr. Waldstreicher:

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 Senate Judicial Proceedings 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 taking action 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. From last year through this past weekend, 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. 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?**

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

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.*

These illegal rallies pop up with no warning and create havoc within minutes – while the Maryland General Assembly continues its deliberations well into three years.

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.**

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.

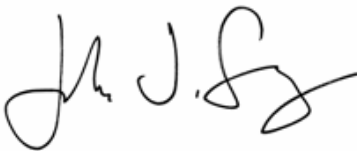
Maryland Lawmakers Can Create a Maryland Road Safety Legacy!

As we've shared with the Judicial Proceedings Committee in the past regarding road safety legislation: Is it possible that the Maryland General Assembly, with JPR's leadership, 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 Judicial Proceedings Committee for your review of our position, and urge you to submit a favorable recommendation and support for SB 442.

Sincerely,

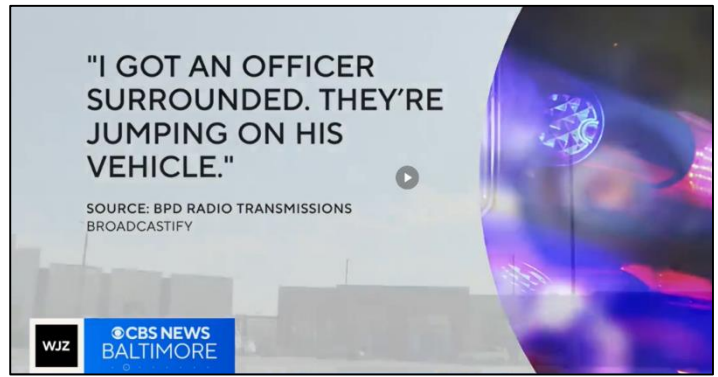


John J. Seng
Chair

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

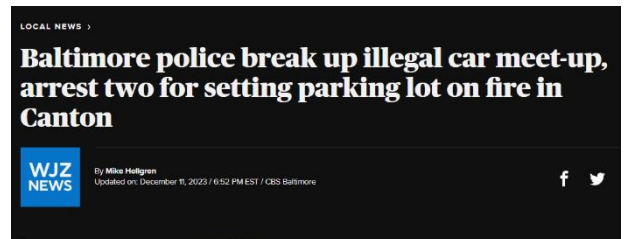
Please Support Maryland Street Racing and Exhibition Driving Legislation Recently Introduced In The 2024 Maryland General Assembly.



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?

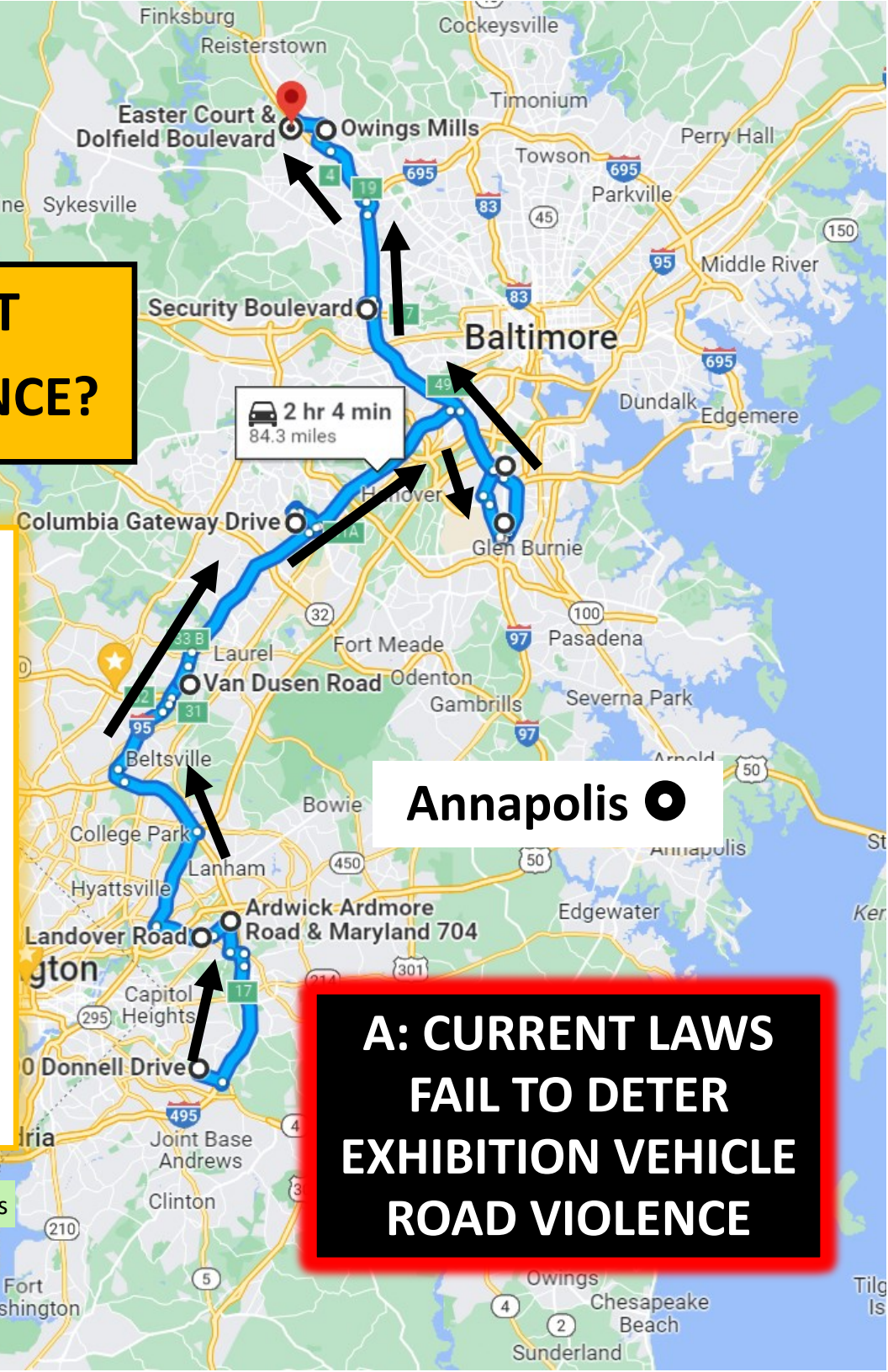
Maryland Roads Criminal Caravan Weekend

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

2024-SB0442-T4BL-FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Nicholas Marks

Position: FAV



SB 0442: Street Racing and Exhibition Driving - Prohibited Acts, Enforcement,
and Penalties
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Terps For Bike Lanes – FAVORABLE

February 12th, 2024

Chair Smith and Committee Members,

I am writing this testimony on behalf of Terps For Bike Lanes in support of SB0442. Terps for Bike Lanes is an organization dedicated to enhancing bicycle infrastructure in and around UMD, with a focus on creating a safe and inclusive environment. Terps For Bike Lanes is dedicated to promoting sustainable and alternative transportation methods, including biking.

Our advocacy efforts extend beyond bicycle infrastructure; we are committed to supporting initiatives that improve road safety for all users. SB0442, by altering penalties and points assessments for motor vehicle violations related to racing or speeding, sends a clear message that reckless driving behaviors will not be tolerated and that appropriate consequences will be enforced.

Research studies, such as the systematic review conducted by Alonso et al. (2020) published in *Accident Analysis & Prevention*, have shown the detrimental effects of street racing on road safety. The study highlights the significant risks and consequences associated with street racing, including increased rates of accidents, injuries, and fatalities. This research underscores the urgent need for measures to deter reckless driving behaviors and protect road users from the risks associated with such practices.

Terps for Bike Lanes fully supports SB0442 and commends the efforts to improve road safety and deter reckless driving behaviors. We believe that this legislation will contribute to creating safer roadways for all users and promote a culture of responsible driving. We urge a Favorable committee report on this legislation and encourage the Senate to pass it on the floor. Thank you for

the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Marks

President, Terps For Bike Lanes

terps4bikelanes@gmail.com

SB442 Street Racing.pdf

Uploaded by: Pamela Beidle

Position: FAV

PAMELA G. BEIDLE
Legislative District 32
Anne Arundel County

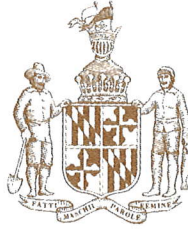
Chair, Finance Committee

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
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410-841-3593 · 301-858-3593
800-492-7122 Ext. 3593
Pamela.Beidle@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 13, 2024

SB 442

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

Good Afternoon Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher and Members of Judicial Proceedings;

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to discuss SB 442, Street Racing and Exhibition Driving. We are continuing to see this activity known as “Street Racing” escalate on our State’s roadways. During a recent weekend evening, at a downtown Silver Spring intersection, multiple cars were seen doing donuts in the busy intersection blocking through traffic. It is not a local problem, it is happening across the State: Baltimore, Anne Arundel, Prince George’s, Howard, Montgomery...to name just a few.

Over the last year, we have worked with Ocean City officials and Public Safety officials from across the state to craft legislation that maintains Ocean City’s ability to maintain public safety while expanding the scope of the legislation statewide.

It’s time to put an end to this dangerous activity, I respectfully request a favorable report on SB 442.

SB0442 - TSO -Street Racing and Exhibition Driving

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: FAV



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

February 13, 2024

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401

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

Dear Chair Smith 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; and establishing certain affirmative defenses to a charge of exhibition driving.

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

SB 442 - Street Racing and Exhibition Driving - Pr

Uploaded by: Ragina Ali

Position: FAV



AAA Mid-Atlantic's Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 442 Street Racing and Exhibition Driving - Prohibited Acts, Enforcement, and Penalties

Sponsor: Senators Beidle, Augustine, and Gile

- AAA Mid-Atlantic **supports Senate Bill 442**, which increases penalties for those participating in illegal racing or speed contests on Maryland roads and establishes a **statewide ban** on exhibition driving on any highway or private property that is used for driving by the general public. The bill also authorizes a police officer to order the towing and impounding of a vehicle that is driven in a race or is the subject of an exhibition driving violation.
- The bottom line is—speed kills—and our roadways and parking lots are not race tracks.
- In 2022, there were 534 fatal crashes in Maryland, resulting in 566 deaths, according to preliminary data from the [MDOT MVA Highway Safety Office](#). Speed was a factor in 110 of those fatalities and contributed to 2,185 injuries on Maryland roads. (*Source: [MDOT MVA Highway Safety Office, data as of February 12, 2024](#)*)
- Recently, law enforcement across the country, and here in Maryland, have cited an increase in illegal street racing. These “meet-ups” are often promoted via social media channels and wreak havoc across the state.
- Last October, Baltimore County Police investigated reports of several unauthorized car rallies in Woodlawn, Owings Mills and Halethorpe, according to [media reports](#). Not only do these illegal activities disrupt traffic and create chaos, they are dangerous.
- In 2022, Maryland State Police investigated a multi-vehicle crash on Interstate 70, which was the result of illegal street racing.
- And in Baltimore City, despite a stiff city ordinance creating tougher penalties, illegal street races persist in [some Baltimore neighborhoods](#).
- In 2020, the MD State Police Golden Ring Barrack received 93 calls about illegal racing in Baltimore County alone.
- Tragically, in 2009, two people were killed and two more were seriously injured in Woodlawn as a result of illegal street racing on Interstate 70.
- In May 2019, 19-year old, Zach Friedlander and his dog were killed in Baltimore County as a result of a crash where the driver who hit him was reportedly street racing and driving at 116 mph in a 35 mph zone.

- And, in 2008, eight people were killed in Prince George's County when the driver of a car that was participating in an illegal race crashed into a crowd of spectators.
- In 2021, according to a [**Washington Post article**](#), Maryland State Police conducted a joint law enforcement initiative focused on speeding and aggressive driving for a four-day period on Interstate 70, which resulted in the issuance of more than 300 traffic citations and warnings.
- While recent research by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety found that even modestly higher speeds at the time of a crash dramatically increase the chances of severe injury and death, these dangerous illegal street races amplify those risks.
- Illegal street racing endangers everyone, including spectators. The reckless and irresponsible actions of those who choose to treat our roads as a race track have resulted in traffic disruption and fatalities on our roads.
- AAA has worked with bill sponsors for the last few years in support of this legislation to crack down on racing and make Maryland roads safer.
- On behalf of AAA Mid-Atlantic's over one million Maryland members, we urge the Committee to give [**SB 442**](#) a **favorable** report.

Contacts:

*Ragina C. Ali, AAA Mid-Atlantic
Public and Government Affairs Manager
443.465.5020*

*Sherrie Sims, GS Proctor & Associates
Senior Associate
410.733.7171*

Dear Senators Bill 442.pdf

Uploaded by: Rev. Dr. Robert Screen

Position: FAV

Dear Senators,

I support SB 442 to become law in the State of Maryland.

As a forty-eight year resident of Prince George's County Maryland, with the last 46 years in the Southern Maryland suburbs of Fort Washington and Accokeek, I now lead a traffic advocacy group named The 210 Traffic Safety Committee and also a founding board member of the Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety.

Just two days before composing this Email, I, along with about twenty other motorist on a two lane roadway in my community, were detained and entrapped by an equal amount of motorcyclist absorbing both lanes doing wheelies and zig-zag driving.

The motorcyclist drove at least two plus miles of road until arriving at the first lighted intersection, whereby they all did a U-turn and performed the same exhibition activity going the opposite direction.

Bold, unsafe and lawless behavior has become the norm for to many traffic violators on busy road and highways, which hold entire communities hostage with irresponsible speeding, exhibition driving and the like. The general public has endured far too long the ill-behavior of those who make a mockery of antiquated laws, and timid and far too liberal policy and law-maker's measures, to bring truly deterrent accountable laws, policies and traffic rules, which bring safe, civil and responsible driving back to our communities.

For these reasons and more SB 442 must pass and become law!

Rev. Dr. Robert L. Screen Sr., Facilitator, MD 210 Traffic Safety Committee
18100 Breann Court, Accokeek, MD 20607

SB 442 Support (Ron Weiss).pdf

Uploaded by: Ron Weiss

Position: FAV

Support SB 442, Ron Weiss

Dear Senators,

I am Ron Weiss, a resident of Fort Washington, a member of the MD 210 Traffic Safety Committee, and board member of the Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety.

I urge your support of SB 442.

I support SB 442 because:

Maryland should not be a magnet for east-coast exhibition driving – Maryland should be the state those who what to show off their adolescent behavior avoid.

We should not let them endanger citizens and first responders.

We should not let them disrupt our right to a safe and peaceful life.

We should not let them hinder our businesses by taking over shopping centers.

They should not be able to create chaos in Takoma Park and bang on the cars of responding police officers.

This should not happen in a civilized state.

Please give us the tools we need to stop this outrageous behavior and report favorably on SB 442.

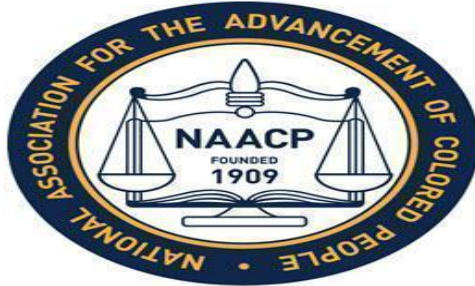
Thank you.

Ron Weiss, Fort Washington

SB 442 Favorable vote.pdf

Uploaded by: Ryan Coleman

Position: FAV



Randallstown

P.O. Box 731 Randallstown, MD 21133

Feb 12, 2024
Immediate Release

Contact: Ryan Coleman, President
randallstownnaacp@gmail.com

Randallstown NAACP supports SB 442-Street Racing and Exhibition Driving - Prohibited Acts, Enforcement, and Penalties

Randallstown MD-Street racing has become an issue in Maryland. In fact, many point to the weaker laws in Maryland to curb these crimes. Maryland must take action to give police the tools to fight street racing. We must take legislative action to protect Marylanders. SB 442 makes it easier to hold these offenders accountable. **The Randallstown NAACP requests a favorable vote on SB 442.**

SB 442 - MoCo_Morningstar_FAV (GA 24).pdf

Uploaded by: Sara Morningstar

Position: FAV



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550

ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270

SB 442

DATE: February 13, 2024

SPONSOR: Senator Beidle, et al.

ASSIGNED TO: Judicial Proceedings

CONTACT PERSON: Sara Morningstar (Sara.Morningstar@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: SUPPORT

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

Senate Bill 442 addresses the Statewide public safety issue of street racing and car meet-ups that have become increasingly prevalent around the State. Specifically, the bills: (1) define “exhibition driving”; (2) prohibit exhibition driving on any highway or private property used by the public for driving; (3) establish affirmative defenses to a charge of exhibition driving; (4) strengthen penalties imposed for participating and engaging in street racing and exhibition driving; and (5) create a specific carve-out for an annual event held in Ocean City.

SB0442-JPR_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: Judicial Proceedings Committee

Date: February 13, 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.

Smith_SB0442_02072024 (003).pdf

Uploaded by: Stephanie Anderson

Position: FAV



CITY OF COLLEGE PARK

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL

7401 BALTIMORE AVENUE SUITE 201 COLLEGE PARK MD 20740 | COLLEGE PARKMD.GOV

MAYOR

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DISTRICT 3

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Maria E. Mackie

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Denise C. Mitchell

Mayor Pro Tem

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February 7, 2024

Senator William C. Smith, Chair
Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Support for Senate Bill 0442 - Street Racing and Exhibition Driving

Dear Chair Smith and Committee Members:

The College Park City Council voted unanimously during the meeting of February 6, 2024 to support SB0442, which would increase penalties for any driver unlawfully engaging in racing and exhibition driving on public roads.

Unfortunately, our residents have experienced an increase in this dangerous and disturbing behavior. Incidents often require a significant coordinated police response in order to disburse the offenders without further endangering the public. It is not unusual for groups of motorcycle and ATV drivers to briefly take over sections of Baltimore Avenue. Recently a number of exhibition drivers used the sidewalks and circled a police vehicle at an intersection trying to protect law-abiding drivers.

These actions harm communities and waste resources. SB0442 will penalize this dangerous behavior, reducing its occurrence and allow better use of our public safety resources.

Thank you for your consideration of the City's position.

Sincerely,

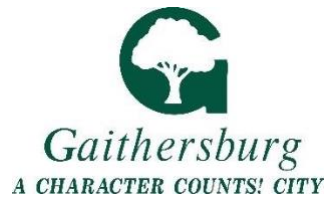
Fazlul Kabir
Mayor

cc: Maryland 21st District Delegation

SB 442 final fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Tyahna Arnold

Position: FAV



February 13, 2024

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

Position: Support

The City of Gaithersburg writes to support SB442- Street Racing and Exhibition Driving- Prohibited Acts, Enforcement, and Penalties. If enacted, this legislation would alter certain penalties and 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; and establishing certain affirmative defenses to a charge of exhibition driving. Senate Bill 442 will contribute to reducing accidents due to street racing often involving high speeds and reckless driving. Senate Bill 442 aims to reduce the frequency of racing related crashes, which can result in serious injuries and fatalities.

We believe that this bill is a significant step toward ensuring the quality of life, not just in the city of Gaithersburg but for the entire state of Maryland. Street racing can negatively impact the quality of life for residents by causing excessive noise, disruptions, and unsafe and undesirable areas. If enacted this legislation will reduce accidents, life quality, and increase public safety. The intent of the bill is to address street racing by increasing penalties and adding provisions for “Exhibition Driving”, which provides police with another enforcement option when confronted with “street takeovers” that have occurred in the county, most recently in Silver Spring.

Enacting laws against street racing reinforces the principle that individuals are accountable for their actions on the road. Senate Bill 442 establishes a legal framework that holds those engaging in dangerous and illegal activities responsible for consequences of their behavior. By discouraging street racing, this legislation contributes to the overall efficiency of transportation systems, promoting safer and more predictable traffic conditions. Overall, enacting and enforcing Senate Bill 442 is a multifaceted approach to promoting public safety, deterring dangerous behaviors, and fostering a secure and orderly transportation environment for Maryland’s communities.

Therefore, we respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 442. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 301-466-5350 or our government relations consultant, Therese Hessler, at therese@ashlargr.com. We appreciate your support.

Respectfully submitted,

Jud Ashman, Mayor
City of Gaithersburg

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