



**CALVERT COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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www.calvertcountymd.gov

Board of Commissioners
Mark C. Cox Sr.
Catherine M. Grasso
Earl F. Hance
Mike Hart
Todd Ireland

March 25, 2024

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

Re: HB766 – Calvert County - Roadside Solicitation of Money or Donations - Prohibition

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Committee Members:

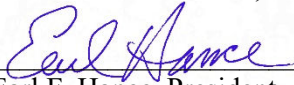
The Board of County Commissioners for Calvert County writes in **SUPPORT** of **HB766** and requests a **FAVORABLE** Committee report. This Bill represents our request that the existing solicitation laws in effect in Carroll, Charles, Harford, and Washington Counties (at Md. Ann. Code, Transportation Art., §21-507(c)) be applied in Calvert County. The County chose this model over the eight (8) variations found in existing law upon review of the advice of Sandra Benson Brantley, Esq., Counsel to the General Assembly, provided to Delegate Jeffrie Long affirming the Constitutionality of this approach.

We feel it is necessary to address the issue of solicitation in roadways for public safety. Consider that our town centers, where the vast majority of our commercial growth has been directed, still retain a rural character, with few elevated, concrete medians. Where concrete medians exist, they are typically part of a commercial intersection with a State road, do not include a cross-walk because there are not usually sidewalks, are seldom wider than 18-inches, and typically have posted speed limits of at least 30 mph. With increasing traffic upon our rural highways the opportunities for catastrophic vehicular and pedestrian conflicts are increasing in prevalence. We therefore feel it is necessary to address the issue of solicitation in roadways for public safety. So you are aware, before publishing its Favorable report, members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee inquired of the means of enforcement. Enforcement provisions allude to participation of law enforcement to, first, educate, then take further steps as necessary to attain compliance. Specifically, “[a] person may not do any act prohibited or fail to do any act required by this title.” MD Code, Transportation Art., §21-102.


Your thoughtful consideration of this request is sincerely appreciated. Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact County Administrator Julian M. Willis at 410-535-1600, extension 2202 or County Attorney John Norris at 410-535-1600, extension 2566. Thank you for your kind consideration of our position regarding this important local Bill.

Sincerely,

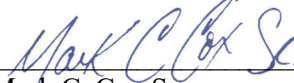
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CALVERT COUNTY, MARYLAND




Earl F. Hance, President



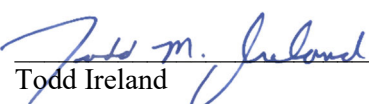
Catherine M. Grasso, Vice President



Mark C. Cox Sr.



Mike Hart



Todd Ireland

cc: Calvert County Senators and Delegation

Maryland Relay for Impaired Hearing or Speech: 1-800-735-2258