



**AAA Mid-Atlantic's Testimony in Support of SB 68  
Reckless and Negligent Driving Death of Another – Must-Appear Violation  
(Sherry's and Christian's Law)**

*Sponsors: Senators Carozza, Gile, Jennings, Klausmeier, Watson, and West*

- AAA Mid-Atlantic **supports SB 68**, which provides “*that a person charged with reckless or negligent driving that contributes to an accident [crash] resulting in the death of another person must appear in court and may not prepay the fine.*”
- Over the years, we have seen countless cases where drivers involved in fatal crashes in Maryland received a slap on the wrist and a fine for causing a crash that killed another.
- One such crash involved a young, distracted driver who crossed the yellow line on a Maryland road in Northern Baltimore County crashing into another vehicle, killing the driver, 61-year old Charles “Chuck” Stoecker, in November 2007.
- The driver, Brandon Michael Boehmer did not have to appear in court for his violation. He was issued tickets, which resulted in six points and paid a \$410 fine. He did not face a trial.
- We saw this again in a high-profile crash in August 2008 that involved a driver who fell asleep while crossing the Bay Bridge, causing a fatal crash that sent a tractor trailer plunging into the water and claimed the life of the truck driver, John R. Short, Sr.
- The driver who was charged with causing the crash, Candy Lynn Baldwin, also did not have to appear in court for her violations. Ms. Baldwin merely paid \$470 in fines to settle the tickets.
- There was no opportunity for the families of Chuck Stoecker and John Short to have their day in court to express their grievances face-to-face with the drivers who caused the deaths of their loved ones and before a judge.
- Deadly crashes should not be treated the same as non-life threatening crashes. It should be mandatory that drivers involved in crashes that result in death appear in court and not be treated as conveniently as a simple traffic citation.
- In 2022, there were 533 fatal crashes in Maryland, according to the MDOT MVA Highway Safety Office, resulting in 536 deaths. Speed was a factor in 109 of those fatalities and an aggressive driver was involved in 36 of those deaths. (*Source: MDOT MVA Highway Safety Office, data as of January 30, 2024*)
- Victims’ families should be afforded the opportunity to have their day in court, too, for a tragedy that will affect them for the rest of their lives.
- AAA Mid-Atlantic supports **SB 68** and respectfully urges the Committee to render a favorable report.

***Contacts:***

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

*Sherrie Sims, G.S. Proctor & Assoc.  
Senior State Associate  
410.280.5088*