



WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

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WICOMICO COUNTY COUNCIL
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February 20, 2024

Environment and Transportation Committee
Attn.: Delegate Marc Korman, Chair
Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: House Bill 1312/Senate Bill 961-Wicomico County-Vehicle Laws – Prohibition on Roadway Solicitations

Dear Honorable Chairman Korman and Committee Members:

This letter is in support of House Bill 1312/Senate Bill 961, Prohibition on Roadway Solicitations. The residents of Wicomico County are met with panhandlers on many streets in Salisbury/Wicomico County. The individuals stand in the roadways, in the median divider and at intersections, many with traffic lights, holding signs. They approach vehicles and solicit for money or donations of any amount from the occupants.

Panhandling poses various challenges and risks to both the individuals engaging in it and the community as a whole. It can create an atmosphere of insecurity and discomfort for residents and visitors, discouraging economic activity and negatively impacting local businesses. Furthermore, aggressive panhandling tactics can intimidate and harass passersby, leading to a decline in public safety and a deterioration of the social fabric of our neighborhoods. Prohibiting pan handling on our streets is a proactive step towards addressing these concerns and promoting a more welcoming and secure environment for all members of the community.

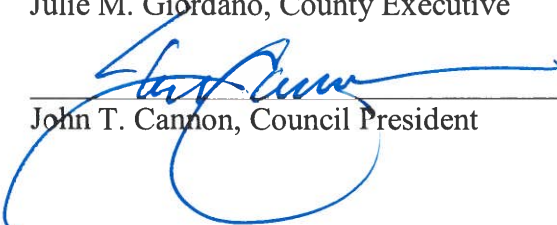
It is important to recognize that prohibiting pan handling does not mean turning a blind eye to the underlying issues of poverty and homelessness. By addressing the root causes of homelessness and providing individuals with the support they need to rebuild their lives, we can create lasting positive change in our community.

We appreciate your assistance. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Council Office at 410-548-4696.

Respectfully,

WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

Julie M. Giordano, County Executive



John T. Cannon, Council President

cc: Wicomico County Council
Eastern Shore Delegation

SENATE BILL 961

R5

4r2268
CF 4r3105

By: **Senators Carozza and Mautz**
Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2024
Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Wicomico County – Vehicle Laws – Prohibition on Roadway Solicitations**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person in Wicomico County from standing in a roadway,
4 median divider, or intersection to solicit money or donations from the occupant of a
5 vehicle; and generally relating to roadway solicitations in Wicomico County.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article – Transportation
8 Section 21–507(c)
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
12 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

13 **Article – Transportation**

14 21–507.

15 (c) In Carroll County, Charles County, Harford County, [and] Washington
16 County, **AND WICOMICO COUNTY**, a person may not stand in a roadway, median divider,
17 or intersection to solicit money or donations of any kind from the occupant of a vehicle.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
19 October 1, 2024.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

