

SB0730 Testimony.pdf

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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Testimony of Senator Jill P. Carter
In Favor of SB0730– Motor Vehicles-Motorcycles- Passenger
Restrictions
Before the Judicial Proceedings Committee
On February 22nd 2024**

Mr. Chairman, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to offer my support for SB730, a crucial piece of legislation that seeks to enhance the safety of motorcyclists and their passengers across our state. As a concerned citizen and advocate for road safety, I firmly believe that this bill represents a significant step forward in protecting the lives and well-being of all individuals who choose to travel by motorcycle.

SB730, which mandates that rear passengers on motorcycles must be able to firmly position their feet on the footrests, with exceptions granted only for those with permanent physical disabilities, addresses a critical safety concern that has been overlooked for far too long. Ensuring that passengers have secure footing on the footrests is essential for maintaining balance, stability, and control of the motorcycle, particularly during sudden stops, turns, or unexpected maneuvers.

By implementing this requirement, we are not only prioritizing the safety of passengers but also promoting responsible riding practices among motorcyclists. Clear guidelines regarding passenger positioning will help prevent accidents caused by passengers losing

their balance or being unable to properly brace themselves in hazardous situations.

Furthermore, the provision of an exception for individuals with permanent physical disabilities demonstrates compassion and understanding for those who may face unique challenges in meeting the standard requirements. This provision ensures that individuals with disabilities can still enjoy the freedom and exhilaration of motorcycle travel while maintaining their safety and the safety of others on the road.

SB730 aligns with our shared commitment to improving road safety and reducing the risk of motorcycle accidents and injuries in Maryland.

I urge all members of the Maryland General Assembly to support SB730 and prioritize the safety and well-being of motorcyclists and their passengers. Together, we can make Maryland roads safer for everyone.

I urge this committee to give a favorable report on SB0730. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Jill P. Carter

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ABATE OF MARYLAND, INC.

Dedicated to Freedom of the Road & Responsible Motorcycle Legislation

To: The Honorable Will Smith, Chairman and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Ken Eaton, Director, Executive Director, ABATE of Maryland, Inc.

Date: February 21, 2024

Re: **SB730** - Motor Vehicles – Motorcycles – Passenger Restrictions

Position: **FAVORABLE: SUPPORT**

ABATE of Maryland, Inc. represents the approximately 121,000 on road motorcycles that are registered in Maryland. We are a state motorcycle rights organization that brings together the voices of independent riders, clubs, riding organizations, etc. We have chapters throughout the state and our members include a diverse cross-section of motorcycle riders in Maryland. We **SUPPORT SB730**.

This bill requires a rear passenger to “be able to firmly position the passenger’s feet on the footrests of the motorcycle.” We have seen a version of this bill in previous years that stated a minimum age. Not only is that hard to enforce as a motorcycle passes by, but as we all are aware, children grow at different rates and applying an age to this requirement just did not seem to make sense. We completely agree with stipulating that the passenger must be able to reach the footrests.

ABATE of Maryland, Inc. **SUPPORTS SB 730** - Motor Vehicles – Motorcycles – Passenger Restrictions. We urge the committee to consider a **Favorable** vote on this legislation and move it to the Senate floor for a vote.

Thank you!

Kenneth B. Eaton, Executive Director
ABATE of Maryland, Inc.