



SafeRoadsMD

HB 105
“Drunk Driving Offenses –
Ignition Interlock System Program”
PLEASE SUPPORT

MARYLAND COALITION FOR ROADWAY SAFETY, INC.
URGES YOUR SUPPORT FOR HB 105

February 19, 2024

TO:

Delegate Luke Clippinger, Chair
Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett, Vice Chair
House Judiciary Committee
House Office Building, Room 101
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

FROM:

John J. Seng, Chair
SafeRoadsMD - *Maryland Coalition For Roadway Safety, Inc.*
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SafeRoadsMD.org

Dear Chair Clippinger and Vice Chair Bartlett:

SafeRoadsMD, a four-year old statewide non-profit advocacy organization, **strongly supports the enactment of HB 105, the “Drunk Driving Offenses – Ignition Interlock System Program” bill.**

We respectfully request that the House Judiciary Committee submit a favorable response to this bill to help stem the continuing lethal tide of DUI offenses in Maryland.

SafeRoadsMD consists of Marylanders who care and speak for all Marylanders concerned about and taking action to increase safety on our roads.

111 impairment-related deaths in 2023 is 111 too many among the 600 fatalities on Maryland roads. (ZeroDeathsMD).

Authoritative research provides incontrovertible evidence that ignition interlock systems work, finding repeatedly *that drivers who have interlocks installed are up to 75 percent less likely to have a repeat drunk-driving offense than drunk drivers who do not have an interlock device installed.**

A person convicted of driving while impaired doesn't deserve a free pass to plead probation before judgment and dodge a requirement to participate in an ignition interlock system program. Why should the State of Maryland invest precious resources to eliminate road deaths through programs such as “ZeroDeathsMD” if our courts continue to allow probation before judgment (PBJ), keeping the door open for repeat DUIs?

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

There is no good reason not to close this loophole in Noah’s Law in this Maryland General Assembly session.

Approving HB 105 will help ensure that impaired drivers cannot operate their vehicles and kill or harm others on or near our roads.

Maryland Lawmakers Can Create a Maryland Road Safety Legacy!

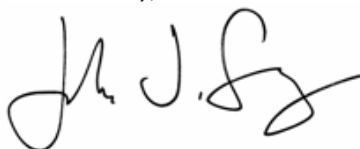
As we’ve shared in the past regarding road safety legislation:

Is it possible that the Maryland General Assembly, with your 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 Judiciary Committee for members for your review of our position, and urge you to submit a favorable recommendation and support for HB 105.

Sincerely,



John J. Seng
Chair

- cc: Governor Wes Moore
- Rich Leotta, Officer Noah Leotta Foundation
- Ragina Ali, AAA MidAtlantic
- SafeRoadsMD *Coalition* Board of Directors
- Maryland Road Safety Advocates and Safety Partners of SmartStart

* See Elder, R. W., Voas, R., Beirness, D., Shults, R. A., Sleet, D. A., Nichols, J. L., & Compton, R. (2011). Effectiveness of ignition interlocks for preventing alcohol-impaired driving and alcohol-related crashes: A community guide systematic review. *American Journal of Preventative Medicine*, 40(3), 362-376. Elvik, R. (2013). Risk of road accident associated with the use of drugs: A systematic review and meta-analysis of evidence from epidemiological studies. *Accident Analysis and Prevention*, 60, 254-267 and Government Accountability Office. (2014, June). *Traffic Safety: Alcohol ignition interlocks are effective while installed; less is known about how to increase installation rates* (Report No. GAO-14-559).