



**AAA Mid-Atlantic's Testimony in Support of HB 744 - Motor Vehicles –
Reckless, Negligent, and Aggressive Driving**

Sponsor: Delegate Wims et al

- AAA Mid-Atlantic **supports House Bill 744 - Motor Vehicles – Reckless, Negligent, and Aggressive Driving.**
- This bill is intended to address the reckless disregard for public safety and the mayhem we are seeing more and more frequently on Maryland roads.
- These incidents have tragically, resulted in death and serious injuries in our state.
- The tragic incident in Montgomery County, in the fall of 2023, when Sergeant Patrick Kepp was critically injured is one such example.
- An estimated 29,135 people died in traffic crashes during the first nine months of last year, according to the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#).
- Despite that representing a decrease of about 4.4% as compared to the first nine months of 2023, risky and dangerous driving behaviors persist nationwide and here, in Maryland.
- In 2023, there were 577 fatal crashes in Maryland, according to the [MDOT MVA Highway Safety Office](#), resulting in 621 deaths. Speed was a factor in 102 of those fatalities and an aggressive driver was involved in 62 of those deaths. (Source: [MDOT MVA Highway Safety Office, data as of February 11, 2025](#))
- The bottom line is—speed kills—and the blatant disregard for public safety that can be witnessed on our roadways on any given day is deadly and must be stopped.
- HB 744 increases penalties for reckless and negligent driving, and explicitly defines reckless driving as driving at a speed at least 30 miles per hour above the posted speed limit.
- The bill also increases penalties for aggressive driving and expands the list of driving offenses that constitute aggressive driving, to include dangerous acts such as: overtaking a stopped school vehicle with flashing red lights; the splitting of lanes by motorcycles; passing or overtaking a vehicle stopped for a pedestrian in a crosswalk, among many other egregious violations.
- Equally important, it reduces the number of dangerous offenses committed “at the same time or during a single and continuous period of driving,” required to constitute aggressive driving from three to two offenses.
- Over the years, we have seen countless cases where drivers involved in fatal or serious crashes in Maryland received a mere slap on the wrist, as their victims and lives of the families of victims are forever changed.
- Those who wish to disregard the rules of the road in a dangerous and deadly manner need to be held accountable, and HB 744 strives to do that. We respectfully urge the Committee to render **a favorable report for HB 744.**

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