

Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1300

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Proudly representing the transit workers of the MTA!



HB 439 - Vehicle Laws – Fully Autonomous Vehicles – Human Safety Operators and Reporting Requirements

House Environment & Transportation

Favorable

February 6, 2025

ATU Local 1300 represents over 3,000 transit workers at the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA). This includes bus operators, bus mechanics, rail operators, rail maintenance workers, and more. Our members keep Maryland moving every day.

Without strong protections for pedestrians, passengers, drivers, and workers on the roadway autonomous vehicles are not safe. Without strong guardrails that require human operators and strict reporting, Maryland's roads will continue to be a privately run experiment with lives at risk. The Association for Computing Machinery, explicitly tells legislators that they "should not assume that fully automated vehicles will necessarily reduce road injuries and fatalities." By seeing these autonomous vehicles on the road, many in the public believe that legislators have already grappled with this debate and decided that they were safe. The public doesn't realize that the data has not come back yet. We cannot allow these vehicles to operate without human operators and strong reporting requirements.

We urge the committee to issue a favorable report on HB 439.