



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

DAWN LUEDTKE  
COUNCILMEMBER  
DISTRICT 7

February 13, 2025

The Honorable Marc Korman  
Chair, Environment & Transportation Committee  
Room 251  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: House Bill 744, *Motor Vehicles - Reckless, Negligent, and Aggressive Driving*

Dear Chair Korman,

I urge the Committee to support House Bill 744, Motor Vehicles - Reckless, Negligent, and Aggressive Driving, which increases the penalties for certain dangerous driving behaviors and provides enhanced tools for dealing with repeat violators of Maryland's vehicle law. Although a similar bill was introduced during the 2024 legislative session, the version introduced this year is more strategically tailored to address the repeated dangerous behaviors we see across Maryland's roadways on a regular basis.

Driving is a privilege, not a right. When a person drives recklessly, negligently, or aggressively, they jeopardize their safety as well as the safety of other motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists. This flagrant behavior merits application of these increased consequences in order to deter future violations. Many residents are fearful of the danger they face daily on and adjacent to Maryland's roadways, including, but not limited to, speeding, distracted driving, and excessive noise. At community meetings, listening sessions, and constituent correspondence residents consistently raise concerns and request assistance with ways to better deter the adverse behaviors.

According to the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), "Speeding is a significant aggressive driving behavior and is estimated to be a contributing factor in over one-third of all fatal crashes nationwide. The probability of death or serious injury grows with impacts at higher speeds - doubling for every 10 MPH over 50 MPH that a vehicle travels."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://zerodeathsmd.gov>

While the General Assembly took positive steps to address roadway safety during the 2024 session, we need to push further with the actions in this bill, including:

- Changing penalties for negligent driving from 1 point to 2 points;
- Changing the penalty for speeding in excess of 30 MPH over the posted speed limit from 5 points to 6 points;
- Creating a per se standard of reckless driving at 30 MPH over the posted speed limit;
- Adding as a penalty for reckless driving an option of imprisonment not exceeding 60 days in addition to the fine of up to \$1,000 so that it is a must appear offense;
- Increasing the fine for negligent driving to \$750;
- Reducing the number of offenses that must be committed in one single course of driving conduct from three to two for aggressive driving;
- Expanding the list of traffic violations that qualify for aggressive driving to include more provisions of the existing vehicle code particularly as pertains to offenses impacting pedestrian and cyclist safety.

I respectfully ask the committee for a favorable report to provide appropriate tools for greater deterrence and accountability for those who engage in dangerous driving behaviors that pose incredible safety risks to our communities and adversely impact reaching our Vision Zero goals.

Very truly yours,



Dawn Luedtke  
Montgomery County Councilmember  
District 7

cc: Members of the Environment & Transportation Committee