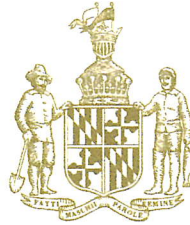


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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Senate Bill 590 – Motor Vehicles – Reckless, Negligent, and Aggressive Driving

March 27, 2025

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

Preliminary data by Maryland Motor Vehicle Association's Highway Safety Office indicate that in 2024, 556 people died on Maryland roadways, with speed being a factor in 90 fatalities and aggressive driving was a factor in 41 fatal crashes. There are continued concerns about the safety of our roadways due to reckless, aggressive and negligent driving. Drivers, pedestrians, cyclists and workers are all being put in harm's way by the actions of drivers who operate their motor vehicles with blatant disregard for public safety.

Senate Bill 590 seeks to address the issues of reckless, negligent and aggressive driving in several ways.

Reckless Driving

The bill adds to the law:

- A person is guilty of reckless driving if the person drives a motor vehicle at a speed of at least 30 miles per hour above the posted speed limit.
- A person convicted of traveling over 30 miles an hour (or other actions noted in 21-901.1 (a)) would be subject to imprisonment not exceeding 60 days or a fine not exceeding \$1000 or both and 6 points.
- A person convicted of driving a vehicle in a careless or imprudent manner that endangers any property or the life or a person or individual would be subject to a fine not exceeding \$750.

Aggressive Driving

The bill increases the number of actions considered aggressive driving including:

- Failure to obey traffic control device or leaving roadway to avoid traffic control device,
- Driving left of center or roadway in overtaking and passing a vehicle,
- Failure to stop for pedestrian in crosswalk,
- Overtaking a passing a vehicle stopped for a pedestrian in crosswalk,
- Overtaking and passing school vehicle stopped and operating alternately flashing red lights,
- Ignoring stop and yield signs,
- Skidding, spinning wheels and excessive noise,
- Discharging diesel emissions onto another,

- Motorcycle overtaking and passing in same lane as another vehicle,
- Motorcycle operating between lanes of traffic or vehicles.

Persons convicted of aggressive driving would be subject to a fine not to exceed \$1000.

Negligent Driving

The bill adds 2 points to be assessed against an individual convicted of negligent driving.

We must act before more people are seriously injured or lose their lives at the hands of reckless, aggressive, and negligent drivers. People who disregard the rules of the road and operate their motor vehicles in a dangerous and deadly way need to be held accountable and so I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 590.