

February 27, 2025

The Honorable Marc Korman  
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee  
251 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

***RE: Letter of Support with Amendment – House Bill 1183 – Vehicle Laws - Drivers' Schools and Driver Education Programs - Age of Instruction Vehicles***

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) supports House Bill 1183 as it balances cost savings for driver's education programs with the need to appropriately limit the age of vehicles being used to teach new drivers, in order to ensure that vehicles remain safe and the technology employed remains relevant.

HB 1183 prohibits the owner of a drivers' school from using a vehicle that is older than 10 model years for instruction and requires the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to promulgate certain regulations related to this prohibition. The MVA currently regulates the age of driver's education vehicles. Under Code of Maryland Regulations 11.23.02.33, a training vehicle must not be older than 7 model years. Following a survey conducted of licensed Maryland driving schools in the Fall of 2024, the MVA found that over 75% of driving schools expressed support for changes to allow schools to operate a vehicle older than 7 model years.

In response to this feedback, the MVA is currently promulgating regulations to allow instructional vehicles to be up to 8 model years old. The MVA respectfully requests the Committee amend House Bill 1183 to reflect this reasonable compromise in model year limits, as it is important for instructional vehicles to meet changing safety standards while maintaining a good state of repair.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information during its deliberation of this bill and grant House Bill 1183 a favorable report with the identified amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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