

February 13, 2025

The Honorable Will Smith Jr.
Chair, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Letter of Support – Senate Bill 590 – Motor Vehicles - Reckless, Negligent, and Aggressive Driving

Dear Chair Smith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) supports Senate Bill 590 as a needed safety reform to discourage and protect against dangerous driving behaviors.

Senate Bill 590 would reduce the number of certain observed moving violations witnessed by a law enforcement officer from three to two for citing the driver for aggressive driving and adds moving violations that may be assessed. It also adds driving 30 miles per hour or more over the posted speed limit to offenses considered reckless driving along with assessing six points for the offense. The legislation further assesses two points for negligent driving alters penalties for reckless and negligent driving.

In 2023, law enforcement officers wrote 10,375 citations for reckless driving and 534 citations for aggressive driving. Traffic stops occur before officers observe the three dangerous driving actions required to meet the threshold for aggressive driving, limiting its application. Additionally, 11,000 moving violations were issued in 2023 for drivers operating a vehicle at least 30 miles per hour over the speed limit. These actions present some of the greatest dangers to road users in Maryland - reckless or negligent driving, along with excessive speed, are guarantees of a higher risk of crashes and serious injuries or death.

Each year in Maryland, 170 people are killed or seriously injured in a crash caused by speeding. As Maryland works toward its goal of zero deaths on its roadways by 2030, measures that deter the behaviors most responsible for deaths and serious injuries on the roadways are needed tools to reach that goal.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests that the Committee grant Senate Bill 590 a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

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