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Budget and Taxation Committee

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Pensions

Public Safety, Transportation, and  
Environment

**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

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***TESTIMONY - SENATE BILL 424***  
***URBAN STATE HIGHWAYS – SPEED LIMITS – EXCEPTIONS***  
***JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE***  
***JANUARY 31, 2025***

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Committee Members:

Senate Bill 424 is a very straightforward bill that simply authorizes the Maryland State Highway Administration to reduce the speed limit on an Urban Highway by up to 5 miles per hour without a traffic or engineering study.

This piece of legislation is a part of the State Highway Administration's Vision Zero initiative which holds the noble aim of eliminating pedestrian and traffic fatalities. Presently, traffic studies are required to reduce speed limits and it often takes quite some time and that time could be a matter of life and death in certain circumstances where highway uses (and particularly speed limits) no longer correspond with the amount of vehicle and pedestrian traffic that they handle.

It's common knowledge that vehicle speed is directly related to crash severity and this bill just aims to give MDOT another tool in their toolbox to help save lives on our highways.

**For the reasons listed above, I ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 424.**