



**PLEASE SUPPORT
SB 0590**

“Motor Vehicles - Reckless,
Negligent, and Aggressive Driving”

MARYLAND COALITION FOR ROADWAY SAFETY, INC. URGES MD SENATE JPR COMMITTEE SUPPORT FOR SB 0590

February 11, 2025

TO:

Honorable Senator William C. Smith, Chair
Honorable Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair
Judicial Proceedings Committee
Maryland General Assembly
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

FROM:

John Seng, Chair
SafeRoadsMD - Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety, Inc.
(202) 468-7682, JSeng@SafeRoadsMD.org
SafeRoadsMD.org

Subject: Urgent Need for Distracted Driving Enforcement – Support SB 0590

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher and Members of the Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

The Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety (SafeRoadsMD) urges your favorable review for SB 0590 - “Motor Vehicles - Reckless, Negligent, and Aggressive Driving.”

This critical piece of legislation builds on last year’s efforts to strengthen Maryland’s traffic laws in response to the devastating injuries sustained by Montgomery County Police Sgt. Patrick Kepp caused by the criminal reckless actions of a driver in 2023. While last year’s bills sought to address these issues, SB 0590 is a refined and technically superior version, ensuring greater accountability and road safety.



As reckless, negligent, and aggressive driving incidents continue to rise across Maryland, this bill takes a necessary and major step toward stronger enforcement and deterrence. SB 0590 updates and expands existing laws, making our roads safer for all Marylanders.

Sgt. Patrick Kepp’s prosthetic legs (WUSA9)

Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety, Inc.
2127 Regina Terrace, Clarksburg, MD 20871 (202) 468-7682

Key Provisions of Senate Bill 0590

1. Enhanced Penalties and Points System

- Negligent driving will now carry 2 points on a driver’s record.
- Speeding 30 mph or more over the posted limit will result in 6 points.
- Reckless driving penalties increased to:
 - Up to 60 days in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine.
- Negligent driving fine increased to \$750.
- Aggressive driving fine increased to \$1,000.

2. Expanded Definitions of Reckless and Aggressive Driving

- Reckless driving now includes excessive speeding (30+ mph over the limit) in addition to existing violations.
- Aggressive driving charges will now apply when a driver commits two or more (rather than three) dangerous driving offenses.
- The list of violations that qualify as aggressive driving has been expanded to include:
 - Failure to stop for a pedestrian in a crosswalk.
 - Passing a stopped school bus with flashing red lights.
 - Unsafe lane changes and weaving between lanes.
 - Tailgating and failing to yield the right-of-way.
 - Skidding, spinning wheels, or excessive noise.
 - Discharging diesel emissions onto another vehicle (“rolling coal”).
 - Motorcycles passing in the same lane or riding between lanes of traffic.

Why This Bill Matters

Maryland’s current penalties are not sufficient to deter dangerous driving behaviors, and enforcement challenges leave reckless drivers unaccountable. This bill strengthens Maryland’s commitment to road safety by providing clearer definitions, increased penalties, and a stronger framework for enforcement.

The impact of SB 0590 will most certainly result in:

- **Fewer accidents and fatalities caused by reckless and aggressive driving.**
- **Increased accountability for dangerous drivers.**
- **Safer roads for all Marylanders, including pedestrians, cyclists, and responsible motorists - your families, friends and ours!**

Furthermore, SB 0590 is a necessary response to real-world tragedies. MCP Sgt. Patrick Kepp’s injuries in 2023 are just one example of the devastating consequences of reckless driving. If passed, SB 0590 will take effect on October 1, 2025. At that date, law enforcement will be better equipped to enforce existing laws, deter dangerous behaviors, and ensure fair penalties for reckless drivers. Moreover, this bill could set a precedent for other states, influencing national policy on road safety and driver accountability.

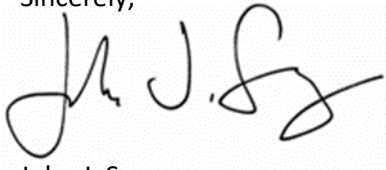
A Call to Action

The Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety urges you to support SB 0590 and make Maryland's roads safer for everyone. Reckless driving is not just a traffic violation—it is a life-threatening danger that affects thousands of families every year. Now is the time to take decisive action.

We appreciate your time and commitment to making Maryland a safer place for all who travel on or attempt to cross our roads. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or require further information.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. Seng". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "S".

John J. Seng
Chair
Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety, Inc.

cc: SafeRoadsMD Board, S. Morningstar - Montgomery County Office of Intergovernmental Relations