
February 5, 2025

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee
Hearing Room 2, East Senate Miller Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Letter of Support – SB 525– Illegal Dumping and Litter Control Law – Video Evidence and Reward Programs

Dear Chair Smith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) is pleased to support Senate Bill 525 as a tool to assist with illegal dumping and littering on State Highways.

Senate Bill 525 requires each Maryland county to establish a program allowing members of the public to submit video evidence of an alleged violation of the Illegal Dumping and Litter Control Law. Senate Bill 525 provides the individual reporting the crime receive half the total amount of any fine collected resulting from a conviction.

Litter is an ongoing issue for the State Highway Administration (SHA). Current funding and resources support four-to-six-week cleanup cycles for litter on and around State roads, weather permitting. Unfortunately, the rapid re-accumulation rates in certain areas are weekly and sometimes daily. Furthermore, illegal dumping is a substantial concern, where dumping sites have resulted in very costly and laborious cleanup demands on SHA.

The SHA has shifted funding and resources to increase litter cleanup. In Fiscal Year 2022, the Administration spent \$11.6 million on litter removal, resulting in over 6,500 truckloads of waste removed. In Fiscal Year 2023, litter expenditures increased to \$15 million, resulting in over 9,000 truckloads being removed (or 364,077 large bags of trash). Volumes of litter accumulation far outpace SHA's feasible cleanup frequencies, so additional measures to stop littering at the source are welcome by the Administration.

The SHA would like to highlight its recently revamped Adopt-A-Highway Program to make it easier for volunteers to sign up and help keep Maryland litter-free. The goal is to increase the frequency of cleanups statewide and further educate Marylanders about this important issue. Therefore, the SHA encourages new approaches to address the important issue of keeping Maryland's roadways litter-free.

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The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee provide a favorable report on Senate Bill 525.

Respectfully submitted,

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