

Councilmember Luedtke SB 590 Pro.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Dawn Luedtke

Position: FAV



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

DAWN LUEDTKE
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 7

February 13, 2025

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

RE: Senate Bill 590, *Motor Vehicles - Reckless, Negligent, and Aggressive Driving*

Dear Chair Smith,

I urge the Committee to support Senate Bill 590, Motor Vehicles - Reckless, Negligent, and Aggressive Driving, which increases the penalties for certain dangerous driving behaviors and provides enhanced tools for dealing with repeat violators of Maryland's vehicle law. Although a similar bill was introduced during the 2024 legislative session, the version introduced this year is more strategically tailored to address the repeated dangerous behaviors we see across Maryland's roadways on a regular basis.

Driving is a privilege, not a right. When a person drives recklessly, negligently, or aggressively, they jeopardize their safety as well as the safety of other motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists. This flagrant behavior merits application of these increased consequences in order to deter future violations. Many residents are fearful of the danger they face daily on and adjacent to Maryland's roadways, including, but not limited to, speeding, distracted driving, and excessive noise. At community meetings, listening sessions, and constituent correspondence residents consistently raise concerns and request assistance with ways to better deter the adverse behaviors.

According to the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), "Speeding is a significant aggressive driving behavior and is estimated to be a contributing factor in over one-third of all fatal crashes nationwide. The probability of death or serious injury grows with impacts at higher speeds - doubling for every 10 MPH over 50 MPH that a vehicle travels."¹

¹ <https://zerodeathsmd.gov>

While the General Assembly took positive steps to address roadway safety during the 2024 session, we need to push further with the actions in this bill, including:

- Changing penalties for negligent driving from 1 point to 2 points;
- Changing the penalty for speeding in excess of 30 MPH over the posted speed limit from 5 points to 6 points;
- Creating a per se standard of reckless driving at 30 MPH over the posted speed limit;
- Adding as a penalty for reckless driving an option of imprisonment not exceeding 60 days in addition to the fine of up to \$1,000 so that it is a must appear offense;
- Increasing the fine for negligent driving to \$750;
- Reducing the number of offenses that must be committed in one single course of driving conduct from three to two for aggressive driving;
- Expanding the list of traffic violations that qualify for aggressive driving to include more provisions of the existing vehicle code particularly as pertains to offenses impacting pedestrian and cyclist safety.

I respectfully ask the committee for a favorable report to provide appropriate tools for greater deterrence and accountability for those who engage in dangerous driving behaviors that pose incredible safety risks to our communities and adversely impact reaching our Vision Zero goals.

Very truly yours,



Dawn Luedtke
Montgomery County Councilmember
District 7

cc: Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

SafeRoadsMD Supports SB 0590.pdf

Uploaded by: John Seng

Position: FAV



**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.

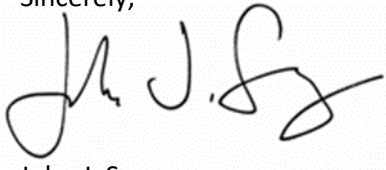
A Call to Action

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", is placed over a light gray, semi-transparent rectangular background.

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

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

MGA 2025 Testimony Bill SB0590 (Reckless, Negligen

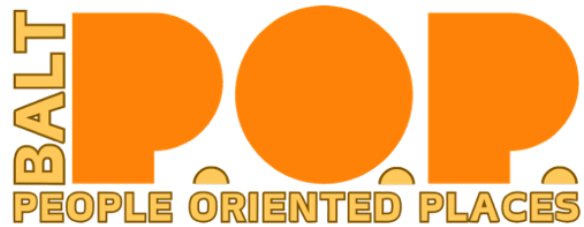
Uploaded by: Michael Scepaniak

Position: FAV

Bill: SB0590

Bill Title: Motor Vehicles - Reckless, Negligent, and Aggressive Driving

Position: **Favorable**



Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee,

As a group which advocates for a built environment which is safe and convenient for all people, whether they are moving through that environment on foot, on a bicycle, in a wheelchair, via public transit, or in an automobile, we support SB0590.

Maryland's roadways are not safe, especially for vulnerable road users (VRUs). Despite the Vision Zero efforts of the past several years, those roadways have actually gotten less safe - for everyone. That said, aggressive driving isn't a major factor behind that decrease in safety. According to the Maryland Highway Safety Office (MHSO), during the most recent five-year reporting period, aggressive driving only accounted for an annual average of four percent of all injury crashes and seven percent of all fatal crashes in Maryland. [1]

The MHSO also states that, in 2022, only 532 citations were issued statewide for aggressive driving. They elaborate:

Difficulties exist in obtaining convictions for violating the aggressive driving statute because of the requirement that officers observe three separate driving violations to issue an aggressive driving citation. Law enforcement officers will not typically wait to observe three or more offenses before taking enforcement action. [1]

With this bill reducing the threshold for aggressive driving from the concurrent violation of **three** or more of the current law's **relatively short list** of offenses to the concurrent violation of **two** or more of this bill's **expanded list** of offenses, the above-listed percentages and numbers are bound to increase.

Given that this bill explicitly includes several offenses against VRUs in the list of offenses that qualify for aggressive driving, we find ourselves supporting this bill. The current bar for what constitutes aggressive driving would appear to be too low. At its heart, aggressive driving is the manifestation of a driver's conscious willingness to put the other road users around them at risk. The revised standards set by this bill reflect that.

To be clear, we agree with Strong Towns that we need to move beyond our fixation on assigning blame for automobile crashes on drivers. [2] Our current go-to tools of driver education campaigns, shaming incorrect behaviors, levying fines, and (with this bill) threatening imprisonment aren't going to get us to where we really want to be (Vision Zero).

We need to, instead, focus on a) better roadway designs that compel slower speeds and safer driving and b) truly **deprioritize** high vehicle speeds and automobile flow over the safety of VRUs. But, institutionalizing the crash analysis practices that Strong Towns has proven out will take time, as will the subsequent culture changes. Until then, we have to work within the parameters of the system we have today. In that light, we are in favor of this bill.

Whenever we find ourselves behind the wheel, we need to be fully aware of the harm we can inflict. Making imprisonment a possibility when driving aggressively (and expanding the list of- and lowering the bar for- what qualifies as aggressive driving) should help us all keep that awareness more top of mind.

We hope the committee finds these points helpful and convincing and we urge its members to **vote in favor of SB0590**. Thank you for your efforts and the opportunity for us to testify on this legislation.

[BaltPOP - Baltimoreans for People-Oriented Places](#)

References:

[1] Maryland Highway Safety Office. "2023 Annual Report". July 2024.

https://zerodeathsmd.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/MDOT_Annual_Report_2023_508.pdf

[2] Charles Marohn. "It's Time To Learn From Crashes and Create Safer Streets Today".

October 30, 2024

<https://www.strongtowns.org/journal/2024/10/30/its-time-to-learn-from-crashes-and-create-safer-streets-today>

SB590 - MVA - LOS - Motor Vehicles - Reckless, Neg

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: FAV

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,

Christine E. Nizer
Administrator
Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration
410-787-7830

Matthew Mickler
Director of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-865-1090

AAA's Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 590 - Mo

Uploaded by: Ragina Ali

Position: FAV



**AAA Mid-Atlantic's Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 590 - Motor Vehicles –
Reckless, Negligent, and Aggressive Driving**

Sponsor: Senator King

- AAA Mid-Atlantic **supports Senate Bill 590 - Motor Vehicles – Reckless, Negligent, and Aggressive Driving.**
- This bill is intended to address the reckless disregard for public safety and the mayhem we are seeing more and more frequently on Maryland roads.
- These incidents have tragically, resulted in death and serious injuries in our state.
- The tragic incident in Montgomery County, in the fall of 2023, when Sergeant Patrick Kepp was critically injured is one such example.
- An estimated 29,135 people died in traffic crashes during the first nine months of last year, according to the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#).
- Despite that representing a decrease of about 4.4% as compared to the first nine months of 2023, risky and dangerous driving behaviors persist nationwide and here, in Maryland.
- In 2023, there were 577 fatal crashes in Maryland, according to the [MDOT MVA Highway Safety Office](#), resulting in 621 deaths. Speed was a factor in 102 of those fatalities and an aggressive driver was involved in 62 of those deaths. (Source: [MDOT MVA Highway Safety Office, data as of February 11, 2025](#))
- The bottom line is—speed kills—and the blatant disregard for public safety that can be witnessed on our roadways on any given day is deadly and must be stopped.
- SB 590 increases penalties for reckless and negligent driving, and explicitly defines reckless driving as driving at a speed at least 30 miles per hour above the posted speed limit.
- The bill also increases penalties for aggressive driving and expands the list of driving offenses that constitute aggressive driving, to include dangerous acts such as: overtaking a stopped school vehicle with flashing red lights; the splitting of lanes by motorcycles; passing or overtaking a vehicle stopped for a pedestrian in a crosswalk, among many other egregious violations.
- Equally important, it reduces the number of dangerous offenses committed “at the same time or during a single and continuous period of driving,” required to constitute aggressive driving from three to two offenses.
- Over the years, we have seen countless cases where drivers involved in fatal or serious crashes in Maryland received a mere slap on the wrist, as their victims and lives of the families of victims are forever changed.
- Those who wish to disregard the rules of the road in a dangerous and deadly manner need to be held accountable, and SB 590 strives to do that. We respectfully urge the Committee to render **a favorable report for SB 590.**

Contacts:

*Ragina C. Ali, AAA Mid-Atlantic
Public and Government Affairs
443.465.5020*

*Sherrie Sims, G.S. Proctor & Assoc.
Senior State Associate
410.280.5088*

SB 590 - MoCo_Morningstar_FAV (GA 25).pdf

Uploaded by: Sara Morningstar

Position: FAV



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550

ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270

SB 590

DATE: February 13, 2025

SPONSOR: Senator King

ASSIGNED TO: Judicial Proceedings

CONTACT PERSON: Sara Morningstar (Sara.Morningstar@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: SUPPORT

Motor Vehicles – Reckless, Negligent, and Aggressive Driving

Senate Bill 590 would increase the penalties and points assessed for reckless, negligent, and aggressive driving offenses. The bill defines reckless driving as traveling at a speed of at least 30 miles per hour above the posted speed limit. Additionally, the bill would reduce from three to two the number of aggressive driving offenses committed at the same time or during a single and continuous period of driving by a motorist (including motorcycles) and increase the number of specific actions considered as aggressive driving offenses. Montgomery County supports Senate Bill 590.

In 2023, Montgomery County Police Sgt. Patrick Kepp was seriously injured after being struck on I-270 by a reckless and aggressive driver who had repeatedly engaged in dangerous driving, including incidents where he operated his car at speeds well over 130 miles per hour. The Montgomery County Police Department was familiar with the teenage driver. He had been issued multiple citations, but he continued to engage in aggressive driving. In the early morning hours of October 18, 2023, after receiving another report of dangerous driving by the notorious teen, Sgt. Kepp responded to the incident by driving to the section of I-270 where the car had been headed and deployed stop sticks in the road to deflate the driver's tires. Instead of the driver slowing down to prevent a crash, he drove into Sgt. Kepp causing the police officer to sustain crushing injuries to his legs resulting in necessary amputation. The driver has been charged with attempted first-degree murder, first-degree assault, and causing life-threatening injuries to Sgt. Kepp.

This should not have happened. Stronger State laws need to be in place to keep dangerous drivers off the roads. And for individuals who willfully violate State traffic laws – and intentionally endanger public safety – consequential penalties should be available in the prosecutions of those drivers. Montgomery County urges the Committee to adopt a favorable report on Senate Bill 590.

SB590_ Motor Vehicles - Reckless, Negligent, and A

Uploaded by: Steve Ashurst

Position: FAV

February 11, 2025

SB590: Motor Vehicles - Reckless, Negligent, and Aggressive Driving

To Chair Smith and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I support SB0590, which alters the penalties for aggressive driving, bringing them in-line with the actions severity and adding needed elements to help curb aggressive driving.

I walk, bike, and take public transportation when possible, as it is mostly a pleasant and relaxing experience. Outside of a vehicle, aggressive driving behaviors are an assault on the people walking and bicycling. These behaviors must be curtailed for all road users and especially the most vulnerable road users.

Having been side-swiped by an aggressive driver, I know all too well that my life is in very real danger while riding a bicycle on the shoulder. Seeing vehicles mangled on the side of the road, I know those crashes didn't happen without somebody making a decision to engage in reckless and aggressive driving behavior.

Anything we can do to potentially decrease this behavior will help save lives for people navigating our roads in a motor vehicle, bicycle, scooter, wheel chair, or on foot.

I urge you to pass this bill out of committee so that it can be brought to the Senate floor for a vote. This bill has the potential to improve the lives of countless Marylanders who use active transportation as well as reducing aggressive driving behaviors.

Sincerely,

Steve Ashurst
14401 Hollyhock Way
Burtonsville, MD 20866
steve.a.md3@gmail.com
330-474-3147