

# **SB915**

Uploaded by: Max Wolfthal

Position: FAV

**Testimony in Support of SB915 – Baltimore County Vehicle Laws – Privat Roadways in Residential Subdivisions and Communities**

Submitted by: Max Wofthal, President Queen Anne Village, Owings Mills  
March 5, 2025

Chair Smith and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

My name is Max Wolfthal. I am the HOA President at Queen Anne Village in Owings Mills, a community of 405 townhomes. I have been on the board here for 20 years, serving as President for the past 16. In this time, I have received many complaints from residents about the cars speeding and disobeying stop signs and other traffic control devices in our community. After asking our County Police to attempt some enforcement here, I was made aware that they have little-to-no authority to do so as our community is private property including our streets.

Several officers I have spoken to seem to have different opinions on the law regarding enforcement but none of them will do it. Some have even told me how badly people drive here but say their hands are tied.

I researched this and found that Calvert County is the exception to the rule in Maryland. In Calvert County, the law allows a police officer to enforce the provisions of the Maryland Vehicle Law on a private roadway located within a residential subdivision.

I believe that SB915, by adding Baltimore County to this existing law, will remove the confusion and create a safer driving experience for drivers in communities such as ours in Baltimore County.

**B10680D5-D679-4A01-9D4C-FC75D743F711.pdf**

Uploaded by: Shelly Hettleman

Position: FAV



SB0915/363321/1

AMENDMENTS  
PREPARED  
BY THE  
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE  
SERVICES

17 FEB 25  
09:13:18

BY: Senator Hettleman  
(To be offered in the Baltimore County Senate Delegation)

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 915  
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 3, strike “**Subdivisions and**”; in line 4, after “prohibiting” insert “, for a certain period of time.”; in lines 5 and 6 and 7, in each instance, strike “certain residential areas” and substitute “a certain residential community”; and in line 6, after “authorizing” insert “, for a certain period of time.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, in line 19, after “(c)” insert “**(1)**”; in the same line, strike “**BALTIMORE COUNTY AND**”; in line 20, strike the brackets; in lines 20 and 21, strike “**THE COUNTY**”; and after line 22, insert:

**“(2) FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2025, AND ENDING JULY 1, 2028, IN BALTIMORE COUNTY, A POLICE OFFICER MAY ENFORCE THE PROVISIONS OF THE MARYLAND VEHICLE LAW ON A PRIVATE ROADWAY WITHIN THE QUEEN ANNE VILLAGE COMMUNITY IN OWINGS MILLS THAT IS USED FOR VEHICULAR TRAFFIC BY RESIDENTS OF THE COMMUNITY.”.**

On page 2, strike beginning with the second comma in line 2 down through the comma in line 3; in line 3, after “within” insert “:

**(1)**;

in line 4, after “community” insert “**IN CALVERT COUNTY; OR**

(II) FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2025, AND  
ENDING JULY 1, 2028, THE QUEEN ANNE VILLAGE COMMUNITY IN OWINGS  
MILLS IN BALTIMORE COUNTY”;

after line 4, insert:

“SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before September 1, 2028, the Baltimore County Police Department shall report to the members of the Baltimore County Delegation to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, on the implementation of this Act and whether it has improved compliance with the Maryland Vehicle Law in the Queen Anne Village community in Owings Mills.”;

in line 5, strike “2.” and substitute “3.”; and in line 6, after “2025.” insert “It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of September 30, 2028, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.”.

# **Baltimore County Delegation Support SB915.pdf**

Uploaded by: Shelly Hettleman

Position: FAV

SHELLY HETTLEMAN  
CHAIR

BENJAMIN BROOKS  
VICE CHAIR



CARL JACKSON  
J. B. JENNINGS  
JOHNNY RAY SALLING  
CHARLES E. SYDNOR III, ESQ.  
MARY L. WASHINGTON, PH.D.  
CHRIS WEST

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401  
BALTIMORE COUNTY DELEGATION

February 17, 2025

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

**Subject: SB915 Baltimore County - Vehicle Laws - Private Roadways in Residential Subdivisions and Communities**

Dear Chair Smith,

This is to clarify information previously sent to you and the Judicial Proceedings Committee that Senate Bill 915 received a **FAVORABLE** vote, as amended, from the Baltimore County Senate Delegation.

The Baltimore County Senate Delegation respectfully requests that the Judicial Proceedings Committee consider its favorable recommendation when voting on this bill. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shelly Hettelman".

Chair, Baltimore County Delegation

**SB915\_Hettleman\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Shelly Hettleman

Position: FAV



SHELLY HETTLEMAN  
Legislative District 11  
Baltimore County

Chair, Rules Committee  
Budget and Taxation Committee

*Subcommittees*  
Capital Budget  
Health and Human Services  
Chair, Pensions

*Joint Committees*  
Senate Chair, Audit and Evaluation  
Senate Chair, Pensions



James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 220  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3131  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3131  
Shelly.Hettleman@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

TESTIMONY OF SENATOR SHELLY HETTLEMAN  
SB 915 - BALTIMORE COUNTY – VEHICLE LAWS – PRIVATE ROADWAYS IN  
RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISIONS AND COMMUNITIES

SB 915 is a bill that addresses a critical gap in traffic enforcement and public safety on private roadways within residential subdivisions and communities in Baltimore County. This authority already exists in Calvert County – it would allow police officers in Baltimore County to enforce Maryland’s vehicle laws on private roads in residential areas, ensuring that residents, pedestrians, and families can feel safe in their own neighborhoods.

Under current law, unless a private roadway is specifically open to the public, police officers have limited authority to enforce traffic laws in these areas. This has led to situations where speeding, reckless driving, and other dangerous behaviors go unchecked and unpunished simply because they occur on privately owned roads within a HOA residential community. These roadways are still used by residents, children, and visitors like any other roadway in the state. Clearly, the risks posed by irresponsible driving are no different from those on public roads.

SB 915 directly corrects this oversight in law by explicitly allowing law enforcement officers in Baltimore County to enforce traffic laws in residential subdivisions and communities, just as they do in Calvert County. This change will help reduce speeding, prevent reckless driving, and ensure that all motorists are held accountable for violations, regardless of whether a road is publicly or privately maintained.

**In light of concerns expressed by Baltimore County because of its high number of private roadways, we are proposing agreed-upon amendments that would create a pilot program in the one neighborhood that has come to our delegation with their concerns. The Baltimore County Executive supports this approach as does the Baltimore County Senate delegation who voted unanimously for the bill.**

By closing this enforcement gap, SB 915 strengthens traffic safety, pedestrian protections, peace of mind, and overall quality of life for Baltimore County residents. I urge a favorable report to ensure that Baltimore County communities, regardless of roadway ownership, have the same level of protection from dangerous driving.

