

Bill Number: HB 635

Scott D. Shellenberger, State's Attorney for Baltimore County

Opposed

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF SCOTT D. SHELLENBERGER,
STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY,
IN OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL 635
MOTOR VEHICLES – SECONDARY ENFORCEMENT AND ADMISSIBILITY OF
EVIDENCE

I write in opposition to House Bill 635 Motor Vehicles - Secondary Enforcement and Admissibility of Evidence. This Bill prevents law enforcement officers from doing their job and enforcing the law when it comes to traffic stops. It includes a long list of offenses that would prevent officers from conducting a stop for those reasons.

Some of those laws include offenses that would interfere with making sure drivers remain safe. A car is driving on a dark 2 lane road. Cars are coming in the other direction. One of the cars does not have a left front headlight. The officer sees this but can do nothing if HB 635 is passed, the inability for police to act puts all drivers at risk.

What is more it is one of the 1st times I have seen a Statute that if violated by a police officer could be grounds for "administrative disciplinary action against the officer." I have never seen a Statute like that in Maryland.

The important thing to remember is that all police officers now have Body Cameras. Hit play and all parties can see everything that transpired including if something wrong took place. The question to be asked is since when has the Constitution and the Bill of Rights not provided enough protections to our citizens. Since when do we make things illegal but officers are prevented from enforcing the laws.

I urge an unfavorable report.