

SB0068 Driver's Licenses - Driver Skills Examination - Motorcycle Safety Awareness Environment and Transportation – March 31, 2026

Sponsor: Senator Nick Charles

Position: Favorable

Testimony of Mahasin El Amin, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Prince George's County

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mahasin El Amin, I am the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County. I respectfully submit my written testimony in strong support of SB 0068, which seeks to incorporate motorcycle safety awareness into Maryland's motor vehicle education and examination process.

On April 21, 2025, I received a phone call from my mother that no child ever wants to receive. She told me that my father had been hit while riding his motorcycle on his way to pick up a prescription around 2:30 on a Tuesday. My father was 76 years old and operating his 2010 Harley-Davidson touring motorcycle. She made a left-hand turn into my father. It was later determined that she was operating a vehicle on a suspended license.

My father's entire left side was basically broken, requiring multiple surgeries, a six-week stay in a subacute rehab facility, and extensive physical therapy. I'm extremely grateful that my father survived the collision. However, nearly year later, he still suffers from the trauma of his injuries, and he will never have the same quality of life or range of motion prior to being hit.

Survival alone should not be the standard when discussing roadway safety. Like many families affected by motorcycle crashes, I was left asking critical questions, could this crash have been prevented through greater driver awareness and education?

SB0068 directly addresses my concern. By requiring motorcycle safety awareness to be included in Maryland's motor vehicle examinations, this legislation ensures that drivers are educated, before they receive a license, about sharing the road with motorcyclists, maintaining safe distances, recognizing rider vulnerability, and understanding the potentially fatal consequences of distraction or inattention.

Motorcyclists do not have the same physical protection as occupants of passenger vehicles. SB0068 acknowledges this reality and places responsibility where it belongs: on educating drivers to be more attentive, less distracted, and more protective of all roadway users. Safer roads are not just a rider issue; they are a public safety issue. This bill establishes a preventative approach by addressing unsafe driving behaviors before crashes occur, rather than responding after families are already harmed.

I strongly support SB0068 and urge this committee to recognize its life-saving potential. By passing this bill, you can reduce preventable injuries, protect Maryland families, and create safer roadways for everyone who uses them.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration. Thank you Senator Charles for sponsoring SB0068.