



Testimony before the Maryland House of Delegates Environment & Transportation Committee in support of HB1295: Autonomous Vehicle Authorization Legislation

March 5, 2026

Chairman Korman, Vice Chairwoman Boyce, and Members of the Committee:

Good afternoon. My name is Anthony Perez, and I represent Waymo, an autonomous driving technology company. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 1295.

This legislation is a vital step toward bringing the safety, accessibility, and economic benefits of autonomous vehicles to Maryland. By passing HB 1295, Maryland will join more than twenty-five other states in enacting a clear framework for the commercial use of fully autonomous vehicles.

Waymo is a totally normal part of life for millions of Americans. We provide hundreds of thousands of fully autonomous, paid passenger trips every week across ten major U.S. metro areas. Our "Waymo Driver" system travels over four million miles every single week—a distance it would take an average American driver almost 300 years to complete.

Our mission is to be the world's most trusted driver, and that is rooted in safety. In the cities where we operate, the Waymo Driver is involved in 90% fewer serious injury crashes; 92% fewer injury-causing crashes involving pedestrians; and 81% fewer crashes involving any injury at all compared to human drivers. These aren't just statistics; this is a real, tangible safety benefit in the communities we serve.

Our number one priority is keeping people safe, and HB 1295 sets a high bar for safety. It requires manufacturers to document driving competencies, and ensures that vehicles can achieve a safe, stopped state in the event of a system failure.

It also addresses critical needs for Marylanders by aligning AV data collection with the Online Data Privacy Act, requiring clear interaction plans so emergency responders know how to communicate with and manage these vehicles; and ensures that the benefits of this technology reach seniors and people with disabilities who cannot obtain a driver's license.

Finally, this proposal would unlock millions of dollars of investment in local jobs and infrastructure. In every city we operate in today, we work with a broad ecosystem of operations partners, who build multiple AV service depots and hire people with a wide range of



backgrounds and skill sets in vehicle maintenance, professional driving, fleet management, construction and other skilled trades work, and facilities security and supervision.

These roles provide stable pay and benefits, and many do not require a university degree. Our experience shows there is a real opportunity in this industry for Marylanders of all backgrounds, now and in the future. That's why we are also investing in scholarships and technical education programs to ensure there is a pipeline to these new opportunities.

HB 1295 provides the predictable, durable regulatory framework Maryland needs to be a leader in this space, and unlock the benefits of this technology.

I urge a favorable report on HB1295. Thank you.