



**AAA Mid-Atlantic's Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 698
Vehicle Laws - Dangerous Accumulations of Snow and Ice –
Removal From Exposed Vehicle Surfaces
(Clear Before You Drive Act)
Sponsor: Senator McCray**

- AAA Mid-Atlantic **supports SB 698 the “Clear Before You Drive Act.”**
- While most drivers clear their windshield and back window of snow and ice, for their own visibility, all too often, they don't clear the roof, hood and or trunk of their vehicles.
- SB 698 strives to change this dangerous behavior, by making it illegal to drive without “*making reasonable efforts to remove from exposed vehicle surfaces accumulated snow and ice.*”
- The bill holds drivers accountable whose failure to remove snow and ice contributes to a crash causing death, serious bodily injury or property damage.
- At highway speeds, even a small sheet of ice can become a dangerous projectile, shattering windshields, causing drivers to lose control, and triggering chain-reaction crashes.
- With the snow and ice storms we saw in Maryland earlier this year, there were at least two incidents that were reported by news outlets, where drivers and/or their passengers were injured as a result of ice falling onto their vehicles.
- In Harford County, two people were injured when their car's windshield was shattered by ice, causing the driver to lose control on the Tydings Bridge on I-95.
- In Anne Arundel County, the windshield of a deputy's police car was smashed when ice struck it, requiring the deputy to be hospitalized with minor injuries.
- AAA believes that SB 698 will reduce serious crashes caused by snow or ice becoming dislodged from motor vehicles and will save lives, protecting drivers and all road users.
- As a matter of safety, courtesy, and common sense, AAA respectfully requests a favorable report for **SB 698**.

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