

Please Support House Bill 474
Vehicle Laws - Dangerous Accumulations of Snow and Ice -
Removal From Exposed Vehicle Surfaces (Clear Before You Drive Act)

February 19, 2026

To:

Honorable Delegate Marc Korman, Chair
Honorable Delegate Michele Guyton, Vice Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee
Maryland General Assembly
Taylor House Office Building, Room 250
Annapolis, MD 21401

From:

Mindy Badin
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Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Maryland House Environment and Transportation Committee:

I respectfully urge a favorable report on House Bill 474, which would prohibit a person from operating or towing a vehicle without first removing accumulated snow and ice from exposed vehicle surfaces.

Snow and ice dislodging from moving vehicles behave like projectiles and create a dangerous roadway hazard; serious injuries and deaths have occurred because of this hazard. Sheets of ice and compacted snow ("ice missiles") can strike following vehicles, at best obstructing driver visibility, at worst causing serious collisions. These incidents place everyone at unnecessary risk.

House Bill 474, if passed into law, will promote prevention rather than punishment. It will prevent avoidable crashes and injuries, and promote responsible vehicle operation. Drivers are already expected to maintain clear windshields and functional lights; clearing accumulated snow and ice is another reasonable safety obligation.

Several other states, including New Hampshire, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and Rhode Island, have passed “ice missile” laws which require removal of snow and ice from vehicle roofs, hoods, trunks, and windows. These states have recognized the dangers of these frozen projectiles on roadway users. Maryland needs to join these states in ensuring the safety of its residents.

In Maryland, winter weather is inevitable; preventable harm is not. By passing House Bill 474, we can take a practical, common-sense approach to reduce roadway hazards and protect all people using our Maryland roadways.

For these reasons, I urge a favorable report on House Bill 474.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mindy Badin