



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

House Bill 591 – Favorable- Wicomico County Highway Pedestrian Safety Act Before the House Environment and Transportation Committee

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present House Bill 591.

HB 591 is a focused, locally driven public safety measure for Wicomico County. The bill prohibits individuals from standing in specific roadways, shoulders, median dividers, or intersections that the county or its municipalities determine to be inherently dangerous locations where the risk of serious injury to pedestrians or motorists cannot be otherwise mitigated.

This legislation responds to concerns raised by residents, law enforcement, and transportation officials about high-speed corridors and complex intersections where pedestrian presence has created preventable hazards. HB 591 does not impose blanket prohibition. Instead, it establishes a targeted, transparent process:

- Local governments identify the specific locations that meet the statutory definition of “inherently dangerous.”
- Clear, uniform signage must be installed before any enforcement can occur.
- Police officers may issue citations only after signage is in place and compliant with the State Highway Administration’s Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

These safeguards ensure that enforcement is fair, predictable, and limited to areas where the danger is well-documented.

HB 591 equips Wicomico County with a practical tool to prevent injuries and fatalities while maintaining clarity for the public. It reflects local input, addresses a known safety issue, and provides a measured approach to protecting both pedestrians and drivers.

This bill has been approved by the Wicomico County Delegation. Several other jurisdictions & counties have this provision in some capacity.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 591.

Delegate Barry Beauchamp