

Darlene Taylor, Mayor
City Council:
Eric Banks, Council V.P.
Ivan Lankford
Casey Goldsborough
LaVerne Johnson
Hitesh Patel

City of Crisfield
City Hall
319 W. Main Street
Crisfield, Maryland 21817

P.O. Box 270
410-968-1333
Fax 410-968-2167
staff@crisfieldcityhall.com

1/25/26

Written Testimony in Support of Senate Bill SB0068
D TORCH Road Safety Act

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Darlene Taylor, and I am honored to serve as Mayor of Crisfield, Maryland. I respectfully submit this written testimony in support of Senate Bill SB0068, the D TORCH Road Safety Act. As Mayor of a waterfront community in Somerset County, I see firsthand how roadway safety impacts residents, visitors, and local businesses. Crisfield proudly welcomes motorcyclists at our annual events during Labor Day, and our annual ELKS Day events that attract riders from across Maryland and surrounding states. These events are an important part of our local economy and community culture, bringing increased tourism and activity to our city, but with that opportunity also comes responsibility. Motorcyclists are among the most vulnerable users of our roadways. While municipalities like Crisfield work diligently to manage traffic and public safety during large events, long-term motorcycle safety depends on statewide driver education and awareness, not just local enforcement. Senate Bill SB0068 provides a practical, proactive solution by requiring motorcycle safety awareness questions to be included in Maryland's Motor Vehicle Examination. This ensures that new drivers across the state understand how to safely share the road with motorcycles, recognizing visibility challenges, maintaining safe following distances, understanding lane positioning, and preventing avoidable crashes.

For communities that welcome motorcycle tourism, this legislation supports both public safety and economic vitality. When riders feel safer traveling Maryland's roads, they are more likely to visit, return, and support local businesses. Preventable motorcycle crashes, on the other hand, place emotional and financial strain on families, emergency responders, and municipal resources, impacts that small communities feel deeply. The loss of riders such as Donnell G. Floyd Jr. (TORCH) reminds us that these incidents are not merely statistics. They represent lives lost unnecessarily and families forever changed. Education and awareness are key to preventing such tragedies, and Senate Bill SB0068 takes an important step in that direction.

I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill SB0068 and to support legislation that strengthens roadway safety for riders, drivers, and communities throughout Maryland. Thank you for this opportunity. Respectfully submitted, Darlene Taylor Mayor, City of Crisfield

Sincerely,



Darlene Taylor
Mayor, City of Crisfield