

# **HB 668 - Commissioners of St. Mary's County SUPPOR**

Uploaded by: Randy Guy

Position: FAV

ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
**COMMISSIONERS OF  
ST. MARY'S COUNTY**



James R. Guy, President  
Michael R. Alderson, Jr., Commissioner  
Eric S. Colvin, Commissioner  
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner  
Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner

**HB 668 - St. Mary's County - Prohibition on Standing in Inherently  
Dangerous Highway**

**COMMITTEE:** Environment & Transportation  
**POSITION:** Support

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County our support for **HB 668 - St. Mary's County - Prohibition on Standing in Inherently Dangerous Highway**. This legislation is a critical public safety measure designed to reduce pedestrian and motor vehicle conflicts in areas designated as "inherently dangerous." The Commissioners believe having the authority to prohibit dangerous activity in these areas is an important public safety issue.

We thank our delegation for pursuing this legislation and urge you to **SUPPORT HB 668**. We appreciate your consideration of this important and thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,  
COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY

  
James Randy Guy, President

CSMC/AB/tr  
T:/Consent/2026/012

Cc: Senator Jack Bailey  
Delegate Matthew Morgan  
Delegate Brian Crosby  
Commissioner Mike Alderson, Jr.  
Commissioner Eric Colvin  
Commissioner Michael Hewitt  
Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow  
David Weiskopf, County Administrator  
David Yingling, Deputy County Administrator  
Buffy Giddens, County Attorney  
John Sterling Houser, Deputy County Attorney

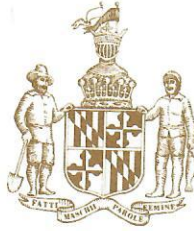
# **HB668 SMCD DTMorgan Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Todd Morgan

Position: FAV

TODD B. MORGAN  
CHAIR

BRIAN M. CROSBY  
MATT MORGAN



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401  
ST. MARY'S COUNTY DELEGATION

February 19, 2026

The Honorable Marc Korman, Chair  
House Environment and Transportation Committee  
Room 250, House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: HB668 – St. Mary's County – Prohibition on Standing in Inherently Dangerous Highway**

Dear Chair Korman, Vice-Chair Guyton and Committee Members:

The St. Mary's County Delegation supports HB668 – St. Mary's County – Prohibition on Standing in Inherently Dangerous Highway.

The purpose of the bill is to prohibit a person in St. Mary's County from standing in a roadway, a shoulder, a median divide, or an intersection determined by the county or a municipal corporation in the county to be inherently dangerous. There are certain intersections in the county which have had a high number of accidents, a high volume of traffic, and/or a narrow median or shoulder structure making the intersection dangerous for individuals to stand in the roadway. St. Mary's County proposes to prohibit standing at these locations and placing signage indicating the inherently dangerous highway for the safety of pedestrians.

We ask for the committee's consideration of this bill and a FAVORABLE report.

Sincerely,

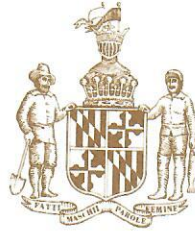
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd B. Morgan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "T" and "M".

Todd B. Morgan  
Chair, St. Mary's County Delegation

**HB668 SMCD Letter of Support.pdf**

Uploaded by: Todd Morgan

Position: FAV



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401  
ST. MARY'S COUNTY DELEGATION

February 4, 2026

The Honorable Marc Korman, Chair  
House Environment and Transportation Committee  
Room 250, House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: HB668 – St. Mary's County – Prohibition on Standing in Inherently Dangerous Highway**

Dear Chair Korman, Vice-Chair Guyton and Committee Members:

The St. Mary's County Delegation supports HB668 – St. Mary's County – Prohibition on Standing in Inherently Dangerous Highway unanimously with a vote of three (3) Yeas and no (0) Neas.

The purpose of the bill is to prohibit a person in St. Mary's County from standing in a roadway, a shoulder, a median divide, or an intersection determined by the county or a municipal corporation in the county to be inherently dangerous. There are certain intersections in the county which have had a high number of accidents, a high volume of traffic, and/or a narrow median or shoulder structure making the intersection dangerous for individuals to stand in the roadway. St. Mary's County proposes to prohibit standing at these locations and placing signage indicating the inherently dangerous highway for the safety of pedestrians.

We ask for the committee's consideration of this bill and a FAVORABLE report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd B. Morgan".

Todd B. Morgan  
Chair, St. Mary's County Delegation

# **HB668 Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Brandon Russell

Position: UNF

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Distinguished Members of the Committee,

My name is Brandon Russell, and I am a resident of St. Mary's County, Maryland I am writing in opposition to **HB 668**, and I urge an **unfavorable report** on this bill.

I recognize the dangerous nature of standing in or near a busy roadway to solicit for any purpose. However, I am concerned about the potential implications of limiting free speech this may have.

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County received a legislative update briefing from Deputy County Attorney John Houser at their February 10, 2026 business meeting. Houser addressed first amendment concerns, citing Reynolds v Middleton (2015) where a Henrico County, Virginia, ordinance prohibiting roadside solicitation was challenged for violating first amendment rights of a homeless person. The case determined two key things:

- That any ordinance limiting roadside solicitations must be narrowly focused to "serve a significant governmental interest" while not impeding on a person's free speech.
- Henrico County did not present evidence "demonstrating why other, less restrictive means available to further its asserted interests would not be effective."

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County would need to identify data to justify the list of roads where solicitation is prohibited in order to appropriately limit the impact of an ordinance. Notably, the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office has not provided any recommendations to the Commissioners, nor did the Sheriff request this legislation. No discussion has taken place on other, less restrictive means to address this supposed problem.

If a future St. Mary's County ordinance was challenged in court, St. Mary's County taxpayers would foot the bill. That is not a practical use of taxpayer funding which should, instead, be used to support the community in ways that would lift people out of poverty.

**Again, I urge an unfavorable report on HB 668.**

Brandon Russell  
Leonardtown, MD  
brandon4stmarys@gmail.com

**HB0668 – LOI - SHA - St. Mary's County – Prohibiti**

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: INFO

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February 19, 2026

The Honorable Marc Korman  
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee  
250 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

***Re: Letter of Information – House Bill 668 – St. Mary’s County – Prohibition on Standing in Inherently Dangerous Highway***

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation takes no position on House Bill 668 and offers the following letter of information for the Committee’s consideration.

HB 668 prohibits a person in St. Mary’s County from standing in a roadway, a shoulder, a median divider, or an intersection determined to be “inherently dangerous” and prohibits a police officer from issuing citations for violations unless the location has signs installed prohibiting standing.

The State Highway Administration (SHA) understands that a person standing in a roadway poses various risks and recognizes that this is a serious public safety challenge. Soliciting in roadways, median dividers, and intersections is already prohibited in several jurisdictions under Maryland Transportation Article § 21-507. Adding St. Mary’s County to this section is a more direct means to achieve the goals of this legislation.

The SHA is unclear on the type of signage required by the bill. It should be noted that “No Solicitation” signs are not covered or regulated by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) as required by the bill. “No Solicitation” signs are not traffic control devices designed to regulate vehicle or pedestrian traffic on streets and highways. Further, signage reading “No Peds” or “No Standing” may not be appropriate and would cause confusion for highway users if pedestrian amenities (crosswalks, Accessible Pedestrian Signals, Countdown Pedestrian Signals) are present at the location. Furthermore, the installation of additional signage could reduce motorists’ focus on critical regulatory, warning, and guide signs.

The SHA requests additional clarification to ensure that the installation of this signage is the responsibility of the local jurisdiction. SHA is concerned that the ambiguity over the signage funding could lead to disputes about the signage being the County’s responsibility. To the extent that the responsibility is on the County and the County submits permit requests for installation of signage on State-owned right-of-way, the SHA will incur additional expenditures for the review, right-of-way evaluation, and issuance of the appropriate permit. If the intent of the bill is for SHA to install signage, it should be noted that SHA is not currently funded to design, fabricate and install the subject signage. Therefore, SHA would incur unfunded costs.

The Honorable Marc Korman  
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The SHA also notes that language used in the proposed legislation, "inherently dangerous", is ambiguous and could have unintended complications on roadway safety. At certain locations, the crash data may not support the assumption that the road is "inherently dangerous". Therefore, it is unclear how a determination would be made in compliance with state and federal traffic engineering guidance and best practices.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information during their deliberations of House Bill 668.

Respectfully submitted,

April Moeller  
Director  
Office of Government Affairs  
Maryland State Highway Administration  
410-210-5780

Matthew Mickler  
Director  
Office of Government Affairs  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
410-865-1090