

# BeauchampHB591.pdf

Uploaded by: Barry Beauchamp

Position: FAV



**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**

# **Letter of Support HB591- FINAL.pdf**

Uploaded by: David Meienschein

Position: FAV

February 23, 2026

The Honorable Barry Beauchamp  
District 38B – Wicomico County  
Lower House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street, Room 316  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support for Wicomico Roadway Solicitation, HB0591

Dear Delegate Beauchamp:

As Chief of Police for the City of Salisbury, I respectfully support HB0591.

From January 1 through December 31, 2025, the Salisbury Police Department responded to 120 calls for service related to solicitation for money. Of those, 45 incidents (37%) involved aggressive behavior. These calls required law enforcement response and created safety concerns for motorists, pedestrians, and the solicitors themselves.

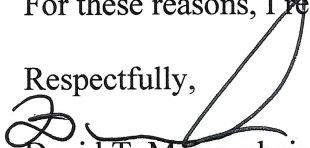
Several Salisbury intersections present elevated risks due to narrow travel lanes, limited or no sidewalks, railroad overpasses with heavy traffic flow, and multilane commercial corridors with high traffic volumes. Many are red-light enforcement sites with documented collision histories. Solicitation activity in these areas increases the likelihood of serious injury or fatal crashes.

The legislation provides for appropriate signage and limits enforcement to the most dangerous locations where roadway safety is clearly compromised. The intent is targeted safety intervention—not broad restriction.

Officers frequently encounter individuals with mental health challenges or substance use disorders, often standing in active roadways while impaired. HB0591 would allow officers to make appropriate contact, connect individuals with available services, and engage co-responder teams when needed. This approach improves roadway safety while creating opportunities for meaningful assistance.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge passage of Wicomico Roadway Solicitation, HB0591.

Respectfully,



David T. Meienschein  
Chief of Police  
City of Salisbury



**20260224 HB591 Beauchamp Support.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jamie Dykes

Position: FAV



**JAMIE L. DYKES**  
STATE'S ATTORNEY

**DATE:** February 24, 2026

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 591

**POSITION:** Favorable

Since January 2022, the Salisbury Police Department has responded to hundreds of calls for service involving individuals standing in or immediately adjacent to active travel lanes at high-traffic intersections, shopping center entrances and exits, tunnels, and underpasses. In many cases, these individuals step directly into moving traffic to solicit and accept money or other items from motorists. This conduct creates an immediate and preventable risk of serious injury or death—not only to the individuals in the roadway, but to drivers, passengers, and bystanders.

Officers have also encountered situations in which pedestrians acted aggressively toward motorists and responding officers, and where individuals appeared to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol, further compounding the danger. These are not isolated incidents; they represent a recurring public safety issue in our community.

While Maryland law contains general pedestrian and traffic safety provisions, existing statutes do not adequately address this specific and escalating conduct. HB 591 provides a targeted, commonsense tool to allow law enforcement in Wicomico County to intervene before tragedy occurs.

Passage of this legislation would enable officers to deter hazardous roadway behavior, make appropriate contact with individuals who may be in crisis, connect them with available services, and engage mental health co-responder teams when appropriate. Most importantly, it will enhance roadway safety for everyone who travels through our community.

For these reasons, this Office supports HB 591 and respectfully urges its passage.

# **HB591 FAV Cannon Wicomico County Council**

Uploaded by: John Cannon

Position: FAV



## WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

P.O. BOX 870  
SALISBURY, MARYLAND 21803-0870  
410-548-4696  
FAX: 410-548-7872

### WICOMICO COUNTY COUNCIL

John T. Cannon, President/At-Large  
Jeff Merritt, Vice-President/District #2  
James Winn, At-Large  
Shanie Shields, District #1  
David Ennis, District #3

Josh Hastings, District #4  
Joe Holloway, District #5  
Laura Hurley, Council Administrator

February 20, 2026

Environment and Transportation Committee  
Attn.: The Honorable Delegate Marc Korman, Chair  
250 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Support for House Bill 591 – Wicomico County – Highway Pedestrian Safety Act

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee:

This letter is in support of House Bill 591, which is intended to improve pedestrian and roadway safety in Wicomico County.

This bill allows the County and its municipalities to identify specific roadways, shoulders, medians, or intersections that are especially dangerous for pedestrians. In these locations, standing in the roadway would be prohibited in order to reduce the risk of serious injury to pedestrians and motorists.

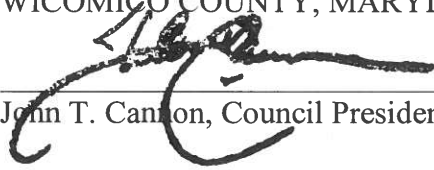
Just as important, House Bill 591 includes clear limits on enforcement. A police officer may not issue a citation unless proper warning signs are installed and the signs meet State Highway Administration standards. This ensures that the public is clearly notified and that enforcement is fair and consistent.

Wicomico County has several high-speed roads and busy intersections where standing in the roadway creates a real safety concern. House Bill 591 provides a reasonable and balanced way to address these hazards.

We urge your favorable consideration of House Bill 591.

Sincerely,

WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND



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John T. Cannon, Council President

Enclosure

cc: Wicomico County Council  
Wicomico County Executive  
Bunky Luffman, Director of Administration  
Wicomico County Delegation

# HOUSE BILL 591

R5

6lr2000  
CF SB 367

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By: **Delegates Beauchamp, Adams, Arentz, Hartman, Hutchinson, and Sample-Hughes**

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2026

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Wicomico County – Highway Pedestrian Safety Act**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person in Wicomico County from standing in a roadway,  
4 shoulder, median divide, or intersection determined by the county or a municipal  
5 corporation in the county to be inherently dangerous; prohibiting a police officer from  
6 issuing a citation for a violation of this Act unless certain conditions are met; and  
7 generally relating to prohibiting standing in inherently dangerous roadways,  
8 shoulders, median dividers, or intersections in Wicomico County.

9 BY adding to  
10 Article – Transportation  
11 Section 21–507.1  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
15 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article – Transportation**

17 **21–507.1.**

18 **(A) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY IN WICOMICO COUNTY.**

19 **(B) IN THIS SECTION, “INHERENTLY DANGEROUS” MEANS POSING A**  
20 **SERIOUS RISK OF INJURY TO A PEDESTRIAN, A DRIVER OR PASSENGER IN A VEHICLE,**  
21 **OR OTHER PERSONS THAT CANNOT BE MITIGATED WITH THE EXERCISE OF**  
22 **ORDINARY CARE.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(C) A PERSON MAY NOT STAND IN A ROADWAY, SHOULDER, MEDIAN**  
2 **DIVIDER, OR INTERSECTION DETERMINED BY THE COUNTY OR A MUNICIPAL**  
3 **CORPORATION IN THE COUNTY TO BE INHERENTLY DANGEROUS.**

4           **(D) A POLICE OFFICER MAY NOT ISSUE A CITATION FOR A VIOLATION OF**  
5 **THIS SECTION UNLESS:**

6                   **(1) THE INHERENTLY DANGEROUS ROADWAY, SHOULDER, MEDIAN**  
7 **DIVIDER, OR INTERSECTION HAS APPROPRIATE SIGNS INSTALLED THAT NOTIFY THE**  
8 **PUBLIC THAT A PERSON MAY NOT STAND IN VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION; AND**

9                   **(2) THE SIGNS ARE INSTALLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MANUAL**  
10 **AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR A UNIFORM SYSTEM OF TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES**  
11 **ADOPTED BY THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION UNDER § 25-104 OF THIS**  
12 **ARTICLE.**

13           **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June**  
14 **1, 2026.**

**Letter for HB BB.pdf**

Uploaded by: Julie Giordano

Position: FAV



## WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

P.O. BOX 870

SALISBURY, MARYLAND 21803-0870

410-548-4801

Julie M. Giordano  
County Executive

Bunky Luffman  
Director of Administration  
Steven S. Lakin  
Assistant Director of Administration

February 24, 2026

The Honorable Barry Beauchamp  
Maryland House of Delegates  
Annapolis, Maryland

Dear Delegate Beauchamp,

As County Executive of Wicomico County, I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 591, the “Wicomico County – Highway Pedestrian Safety Act.”

This legislation provides Wicomico County and its municipalities with a practical and safety-focused tool to address roadway locations that have been identified as inherently dangerous. By prohibiting individuals from standing in roadways, shoulders, medians, or intersections deemed unsafe—and by requiring appropriate traffic control signage before any citation may be issued—HB 591 strikes an important balance between proactive public safety and fair notice to the public.

Our county continues to prioritize reducing preventable traffic incidents and enhancing pedestrian and motorist safety alike. Certain high-traffic corridors and intersections present visibility challenges, speed concerns, and infrastructure limitations that create significant risk when individuals occupy travel lanes or medians. This bill allows local authorities to address those conditions responsibly, while ensuring enforcement is transparent and clearly communicated through proper signage in accordance with State standards.

HB 591 reflects a thoughtful, locally driven solution to a real safety concern in our community. I appreciate your leadership on this matter and respectfully urge favorable consideration of this important legislation.

Thank you for your service to our residents and for your commitment to public safety in Wicomico County.

Respectfully,

Julie Giordano  
Wicomico County Executive



**HB 591\_MTBMA\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Michael Sakata

Position: FAV



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

February 26, 2026

**RE: HB 591 – FAVORABLE – Wicomico County – Highway Pedestrian Safety Act**

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association (“MTBMA”) has been and continues to serve as the voice for Maryland’s construction transportation industry since 1932. Our association is comprised of 250 members. MTBMA encourages, develops, and protects the prestige of the transportation construction and materials industry in Maryland by establishing and maintaining respected relationships with federal, state, and local public officials. We proactively work with regulatory agencies and governing bodies to represent the interests of the transportation industry and advocate for adequate state and federal funding for Maryland’s multimodal transportation system.

House Bill 591 would prohibit individuals in Wicomico County from standing in roadways, shoulders, median dividers, or intersections that are determined by the county or a municipal corporation to be inherently dangerous. The bill defines “inherently dangerous” as locations posing a serious risk of injury that cannot be mitigated through the exercise of ordinary care. HB 591 also establishes clear safeguards by prohibiting enforcement to issue a citation unless appropriate signage is installed in accordance with State traffic control standards.

MTBMA supports HB 591 because it is a targeted, safety-driven measure that prioritizes the protection of pedestrians, motorists, and transportation workers alike. The bill helps reduce preventable accidents while maintaining transparency and fairness in police enforcement. Clear standards and signage improve predictability within the transportation network and support safer project delivery and roadway operations. This bill aligns perfectly with our Association’s mission to create safer roads in Maryland.

For the reasons stated, we respectfully ask for a **FAVORABLE** vote on HB 591.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Sakata", written in a cursive style.

Michael Sakata  
President and CEO  
Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association

# **2-26-2026 FWA HB0591 Wicomico County Pedestrian Sa**

Uploaded by: Ronza Othman

Position: FWA



*Live the life you want.*

From: Ronza Othman, President  
National Federation of the Blind of Maryland  
15 Charles Plaza, #3002  
Baltimore, MD 21201 [president@nfbmd.org](mailto:president@nfbmd.org)

To: House Committee on Environment & Transportation

The members of the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland urge the House Committee on Environment & Transportation Committee to give a favorable report with amendment to SB0591. This bill prohibits pedestrians in Wicomico County from standing in a roadway, shoulder, median divide, or intersection determined by the county or a municipal corporation in the county to be inherently dangerous. It also prohibits police officers from issuing citations for violations unless certain conditions are met.

The bill as written is problematic because blind and low-vision pedestrians are not able to see the required signage designating an inherently dangerous roadway, shoulder, median divide, or intersection. Many intersections do not have sidewalks or proper curb cuts, so it can be difficult for a blind pedestrian to find an appropriate place to stand while listening for traffic patterns in order to determine whether or when it is safe to enter the intersection. In addition, without audio pedestrian signals that count down the pedestrian crossing time for an intersection, blind pedestrians have no way of knowing how much time they have to cross the intersection; as a result, they often must stop in a median if the traffic pattern changes before they are able to safely complete a crossing. We note that the Maryland White Cane Law already requires drivers to yield to blind and low-vision pedestrians. This bill should be amended to include in the conditions under which a citation may not be issued that the pedestrian is blind or has low vision.

For these reasons, we ask for a favorable report conditional on the above amendment on HB0591. For questions, please contact me at [President@nfbmd.org](mailto:President@nfbmd.org) or at 443-426-4110.

# **HB0591 - LOI - SHA - Wicomico County - Highway Ped**

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: INFO

February 26, 2026

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

***Re: Letter of Information – House Bill 591 – Wicomico County – Highway Pedestrian Safety Act***

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 591 and offers the following letter of information for the Committee’s consideration.

HB 591 prohibits a person in Wicomico 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 § 21-507 of the Transportation article. Adding Wicomico 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.

Furthermore, 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 could lead to disputes over who is the responsible party for signage installation. 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 SHA also notes that the language used in HB 591 – specifically, the use of “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”.

The Honorable Marc Korman  
Page Two

Therefore, it is unclear how a determination would be made in compliance with State and federal traffic engineering guidance and best practices.

The Maryland State Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information during their deliberations of House Bill 591.

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