



AAA Testimony in Support of SB789 Automotive Repair Facilities – Advanced Driver Assistance Systems

March 2, 2026

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher and Members of the Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

On behalf of **AAA Club Alliance**, I write to **support Senate Bill 789**, which establishes professional standards, licensing, and consumer protections for Advanced Driver Assistance System (ADAS) recalibration in Maryland and urge the Committee to issue a **favorable report**.

Why This Bill is Needed Despite the 2023 Windshield Calibration Law

Maryland took an important step in 2023 by passing a law requiring glass shops to notify customers when a windshield repair triggers the need for ADAS recalibration. That statute ensures consumers are informed and that glass repairers adhere to OEM specifications. However, it applies **only to motor vehicle safety glass facilities** and addresses a narrow part of the ADAS ecosystem.

SB789 is needed because the 2023 law does not regulate the full range of repair facilities or repair scenarios that impact ADAS systems. Modern ADAS components extend far beyond the windshield. Collision repairs, bumper replacements, suspension work, cooling/AC repairs, and body-panel adjustments all affect cameras, radars, and sensors, and therefore require precise recalibration. ADAS is now present in an overwhelming share of late-model vehicles, with one report showing that **89% of model year 2023 vehicles require recalibration following a windshield replacement alone**, illustrating how widespread these systems have become.

Key Gaps in the 2023 Law That SB 789 Corrects

The 2023 law does not regulate the majority of repair facilities performing ADAS work.

The earlier statute applies only to glass shops, leaving body shops and mechanical repair facilities, where many ADAS-sensitive repairs occur, completely unregulated in this area.

No licensing, training, or facility standards exist today.

The 2023 law created disclosure requirements but did not establish:

- Licensing of individuals or facilities
- Technical training standards
- Equipment standards
- Requirements for controlled environments (e.g., level floors, proper lighting), which are essential for accurate calibrations
- Legislative testimony in 2023 emphasized that ADAS recalibration requires specialized conditions that many facilities do not currently meet.

The previous law did not address insurer practices.

Insurers can currently deny OEM-required calibrations, exclude necessary scanning from estimates, or pressure shops toward unsafe shortcuts, none of which is addressed in the 2023 statute. SB789 ensures that insurers cannot deny or disregard OEM-specified safety procedures.

There is no meaningful enforcement mechanism.

Without licensing, there is no way to suspend, revoke, or discipline facilities that repeatedly fail to follow OEM procedures. SB789 fixes this by establishing civil penalties, licensing consequences, and enforcement authority.

How SB789 Protects Maryland Drivers

SB789 creates a comprehensive framework to ensure ADAS systems, which include features such as automatic emergency braking, lane keeping assistance, blind-spot detection, and adaptive cruise control, are restored to proper working order after repairs. The bill ensures:

- **Professional standards:** Facilities performing ADAS calibrations must be licensed and must meet OEM tool, equipment, and environmental requirements.
- **Transparency:** Consumers receive detailed pre- and post-repair documentation on scans performed, calibrations completed, and system performance.
- **Safety:** Repairs cannot be considered complete by insurers until all necessary calibrations are properly performed.
- **Accountability:** Violations carry meaningful penalties, including license suspension for repeated offenses.

As ADAS becomes the safety backbone of modern vehicles, accurate calibration is not optional, it is life-saving. Maryland's 2023 law addressed part of the issue, but today's vehicles require a broader, more robust regulatory structure that covers the full repair ecosystem. SB789 closes the gaps, establishes professional standards, and protects both consumers and road safety.

We, at AAA appreciate the Judicial Proceedings Committee's leadership on traffic safety and respectfully urge you to issue a **favorable report on SB789**.

Sincerely,

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