



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of HB668 – St. Mary's County –
Prohibition on Standing in Inherently Dangerous Highway**

April 1, 2026

Dear Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher and Members of the Committee:

The St. Mary's County Delegation is presenting House Bill 688 for the purpose of providing safe roadways for both vehicles and pedestrians. The bill prohibits any standing in the roadway, median of the roadway or intersection determined inherently dangerous by the county.

St. Mary's County is rural in nature with the exception of a few town centers, where the vast majority of our commercial growth has been directed. These areas have few elevated concrete medians, which are found as part of a typical commercial intersection with a state road and do not include crosswalks because there are few sidewalks. Most of these roads have posted speed limits of 30 mph or more. As traffic increases on the rural highways, the county feels it is necessary to address the issue of solicitation in the roadways for public safety.

On state highways which carry the most traffic, posted speeds of 55 mph are often exceeded by 10 – 15 mph. And some of these have had a high number of accidents. As with many other areas of the state, traffic enforcement is needed and automated enforcement has been a discussion here as it is statewide. However, accident prevention is the best action to keep people safe and traffic flowing.

Additionally, there are intersections in the county which have a high volume of traffic and/or a narrow median or shoulder structure making the intersection dangerous for individuals to stand in the roadway.

Over the last two years, St. Mary's County has attempted to pass legislation making restrictions on all solicitation in roadways as a way to discourage individuals standing in roadways and medians. However, concerns about the legality of this proposal have kept the bill from passing, even with a 2024 Attorney General of Maryland opinion finding that content-neutral restrictions were permissible.

Therefore, out of continued safety concern, St. Mary's County is requesting permission to prohibit standing in certain intersections based off its inherently dangerous configuration and/or accident history of the intersection. This bill will make our intersections and roadways safer for pedestrians and vehicles.

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