01-19-26 sb0038.pdf
Uploaded by: John Becker
Position: FAV

SafeRoadsMD

PLEASE SUPPORT SB0038
"Ignition Interlock Systems Program—Required Participation"

MARYLAND COALITION FOR ROADWAY SAFETY, INC. URGES MD SENATE JPR COMMITTEE SUPPORT FOR SB 0038

January 19, 2026

TO: Senator William C. Smith, Chair, Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair, and CommitteeMembers
Judicial Proceedings Committee
Maryland General Assembly
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

FROM: John Becker, Board Member
SafeRoadsMD - Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety, Inc.
(301) 852 9051, jb@saferoadsmd.org
SafeRoadsMD.org

Re: Request for a Favorable Review of SB 0038 – Vehicle Laws-Ignition Interlock System Program-Required Participation

On behalf of **SafeRoadsMD (Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety, Inc.)**, a statewide coalition of families, advocates, and professionals committed to reducing traffic deaths, serious injuries and crashes, we respectfully request a favorable review of Senate Bill 0038.

Respectfully,

John Becker
Board Member
Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety, Inc.

cc: John Seng, Chair
Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety

BikeMaryland et al-FAV-SB38 IgnitionInterlock_2026
Uploaded by: Nigel Samaroo
Position: FAV

SB38 – Ignition Interlock

Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee

January 21, 2026

Position: Favorable

Greetings Chair and Members of the Committee

Our mission is to promote bicycling, increase safety, improve conditions, and provide a voice for bicyclists in Maryland. We partner with advocacy organizations to promote vulnerable road user safety legislation on the state and county level and work with government agencies, including police departments, to develop policy and awareness campaigns that protect the rights and well-being of bicyclists and pedestrians in Maryland. We the undersigned represent multiple community-based organizations advocating for safe biking, walking and active transportation, submit this testimony on behalf of tens of thousands of members across the State of Maryland.

As bicycling has increased in popularity across the United States and provides many environmental, economic, and health benefits, there is a need for creating a safe transportation system which makes people the priority, using all available tools to help achieve zero injuries and fatalities on our roadways and allowing all people to get to their destinations safely. SB38 will help with this effort by reducing impaired driving, especially by repeat offenders.

This bill will deter people from impaired driving, thereby reducing both the likelihood and severity of crashes. This is especially important for vulnerable road users (VRUs) such as pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists, the elderly, people with disabilities, emergency responders and schoolchildren who may cross or travel along our roads to access schools, parks, shopping areas and other destinations. This bill also aligns with Maryland's commitment to Vision Zero. In 2025, more than 470 people were killed on Maryland roads and about one third were VRUs. The Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (MBPAC) supports this bill.

Reducing impaired driving reduces both the likelihood of a crash and the severity of injury if a crash occurs, especially for Vulnerable Road Users. We request that the committee support the passage of SB38.

Baltimore Bicycling Club (BBC)
Bicycle Advocates for Annapolis & Anne Arundel County (BikeAAA)
Bike Maryland
Bikemore
Bike HoCo
Frederick Bicycle Coalition
Maryland Eastern Shore Trail Network
Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA)

SB0038 - LOS - MVA - Ignition Interlock.pdf
Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt
Position: FAV

January 21, 2026

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Letter of Support – Senate Bill 38 – Vehicle Laws – Ignition Interlock System Program – Required Participation

Dear Chair Smith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) supports Senate Bill 38 as it removes an unnecessary barrier to ignition interlock enrollment for certain offenders.

SB 38 removes the requirement that individuals age 21 or older who violate an alcohol restriction on their driver's license have their administrative suspension altered by an Administrative Law Judge if they choose to enroll in ignition interlock in lieu of the automatic license suspension.

Under current law, the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) has the authority to offer licensed drivers under 21 who violate the alcohol restriction on their driver's license the option of either serving a suspension of their driving privileges for a specified period of time or enrolling in the ignition interlock program. However, individuals age 21 or over who violate the same restriction on their driving privileges when applicable must file a request for a hearing with the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) and receive a favorable ruling from an Administrative Law Judge altering their suspension before the individual may enroll in ignition interlock.

This requirement for an OAH hearing causes unnecessary burdens for both the license holder and the MVA. The requirement for an OAH hearing creates a barrier to, and delays participation in, ignition interlock for the license holder while adding financial costs and administrative paperwork burdens on the MVA. The Administration must pay for the hearing with OAH and prepare and present at each hearing. Removing this barrier encourages participation in ignition interlock and treats all Marylanders the same in the process for resolving their license restriction violation regardless of age.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee grant Senate Bill 38 a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine E. Nizer
Administrator
Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration
410-787-7830

Matthew Mickler
Director of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-865-1102

FINAL AAA Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 0038 - Ignit
Uploaded by: Ragina Ali
Position: FAV

AAA's Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 0038
Vehicle Laws - Ignition Interlock System Program - Required Participation
Sponsor: Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee
(By Request – Departmental – Transportation)

- AAA **supports SB 0038 - Vehicle Laws - Ignition Interlock System Program - Required Participation,** which requires individuals to participate in the Ignition Interlock System Program (IISP) as a condition of modification of a suspension or revocation of a license or issuance of a restricted license if they have violated certain alcohol-related driving restrictions.

- This technical, yet important change to the current IISP will help strengthen Maryland's impaired driving framework and keep impaired drivers from getting behind the wheel.

- Despite substantial progress in reducing alcohol-impaired crashes, drunk driving remains a persistent and preventable problem both nationwide and in the state of Maryland.

- According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), in 2023, 12,429 people died in alcohol-impaired driving traffic deaths.

- In every state, it's illegal to drive drunk, yet one person is killed in a drunk driving crash every 42 minutes in the U.S., according to NHTSA.

- Last month, the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety (AAAFTS) released a report revealing that while risky driving behaviors remain widespread, Americans strongly support a range of impaired-driving countermeasures that could significantly reduce fatalities.

- The results highlight a clear pattern: even as some drivers continue to take dangerous risks, most Americans want stronger safeguards that prevent impaired driving, including advanced vehicle technologies and more protective legal standards.

- Findings from the AAA Foundation survey:
    - **93%** of respondents say driving after drinking is very or extremely dangerous,
    - Yet **7%** say they did so in the past 30 days, which is troubling.
    - **67%** support requiring all new cars to include alcohol-impairment prevention technology.

- Expanding the use of ignition interlocks would help save lives in Maryland by preventing repeat offenses.

- While not a stand-alone solution, ignition interlocks are an essential tool for preventing impaired individuals from driving and putting themselves and others at risk on Maryland roadways.

- AAA appreciates the Committee's longstanding commitment to combat impaired driving on Maryland roads and respectfully request a favorable report for **SB 0038**.

Contacts:
Ragina C. Ali, AAA Club Alliance
Public and Government Affairs Manager
443.465.5020

Marty Lostrom, GS Proctor & Associates
Associate
202.368.3859

MCPA-MSA SB 38 Automated Enforcement - Interlock S

Uploaded by: Samira Jackson

Position: FAV

Maryland Chiefs of Police Association
Maryland Sheriffs' Association

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chair and
Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Darren Popkin, Executive Director, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Samira Jackson, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: January 21, 2025

RE: **Senate Bill 38 - Vehicle Laws - Ignition Interlock System Program - Required Participation**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT SB 38.** Senate Bill 38 strengthens our state's ignition interlock system requirements and closes a critical gap that currently allows certain alcohol-related driving violators, particularly those under age 21, to regain or modify driving privileges without meaningful safety controls. Requiring ignition interlock participation as a condition for reinstatement, restricted licenses, or modification following suspension or revocation is an excellent strategy for reducing impaired driving. Ignition interlock devices are one of the most effective tools for ensuring drivers do not operate a vehicle after consuming alcohol.

SB 38 also provides needed accountability by establishing clear consequences for drivers who fail to complete the program and by ensuring that monitoring standards remain enforceable. For law enforcement, this translates into fewer impaired drivers on the road, fewer preventable tragedies at the local level, and reduced strain on emergency response systems, investigative units, and courts. SB 38 allows Maryland to continue to make meaningful progress in impaired driving prevention by advancing a targeted public safety measure that supports rehabilitation while prioritizing community safety.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT SB 38** and urge a **FAVORABLE** committee report.

532 Baltimore Boulevard, Suite 308
Westminster, Maryland 21157
667-314-3216 / 667-314-3236

2026-01-21 OPD Written on SB 38 (Oppose).pdf
Uploaded by: Hannibal Kemerer
Position: UNF

MARYLAND OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

NATASHA M. DARTIGUE
PUBLIC DEFENDER

KEITH LOTRIDGE
DEPUTY PUBLIC DEFENDER

Opposition to SB 38

BILL: Senate Bill 38 - Vehicle Laws - Ignition Interlock System Program - Required Participation
FROM: Maryland Office of the Public Defender
POSITION: Unfavorable
DATE: January 21, 2026

The Maryland Office of the Public Defender respectfully requests that the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee issue an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 38. This legislation, filed by Chair Smith at the request of the Department of Transportation, requires anyone seeking a modification of a licensure suspension or modification to participate in the Ignition Interlock System Program.

The principal problem with SB 38 is that individuals frequently have their licenses suspended pursuant to Section 21-902(c) of the Transportation Article for driving under the influence of substances *other than alcohol* (e.g. marijuana or Ambien), the only substance detected by the Ignition Interlock System. In short, it does not make sense to require people to pay for and participate in the Ignition Interlock System Program, which is quite expensive, if the detection system is unlikely to alert for the substances those same people have a history of using while driving. This bill should be limited to individuals who are participating in the Ignition Interlock System Program because of a history of driving while impaired *by alcohol*. As currently drafted, however, this bill is overly burdensome and ineffective.

For these reasons, the Maryland Office of the Public Defender urges this Committee to issue an unfavorable report on SB 38.

Submitted by: Maryland Office of the Public Defender, Government Relations Division.
Authored by: Hannibal Kemerer, Chief of Staff, Hannibal.Kemerer1@maryland.gov.