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Joint Committees
Administrative, Executive,
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Children, Youth, and Families
Program Open Space and Agricultural
Land Preservation

Williamsport Office
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Senate Bill 195 – Motorcycles - Protective Headgear Requirement - Exception (In Remembrance of Gary "Pappy" Boward)

January 28, 2026

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

I am writing to strongly endorse the passage of Senate Bill 195. This legislation, titled "In Remembrance of Gary 'Pappy' Boward," proposes a reasonable and balanced amendment to Maryland's transportation laws regarding motorcycle protective headgear. By establishing specific exemptions for experienced and educated riders, this bill respects the personal autonomy of Maryland's motorcycling community while ensuring that safety remains a priority through strict eligibility criteria.

The bill wisely limits this exception to individuals who are at least 21 years old and have demonstrated a commitment to safety, either through at least two years of licensure or the completion of an approved motorcycle rider safety course. Furthermore, it extends this choice to passengers of these qualified operators, ensuring a consistent application of the law. By maintaining existing requirements for eye protection and windscreens, the bill preserves essential safety standards while allowing veteran riders the freedom to make their own decisions regarding headgear. I urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 195 to honor the spirit of the motorcycling community.

I thank you for your time and I urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike McKay".

Senator Mike McKay
Representing the Appalachia Region of Maryland
Serving Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties