

SB0367 Wicomico County Executive Letter.pdf

Uploaded by: Bunky Luffman

Position: FAV



WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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Bunky Luffman
Director of Administration

Steven S. Lakin
Assistant Director of Administration

Julie M. Giordano
County Executive

February 2, 2026

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

Re: Support for Senate Bill 367 – Wicomico County – Highway Pedestrian Safety Act

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support Senate Bill 367, the Wicomico County Highway Pedestrian Safety Act.

This bill gives Wicomico County and its municipalities the authority they need to address roadways, medians, and intersections that are especially dangerous for pedestrians. Too many of our residents are injured or killed while simply trying to cross or walk along our roads. Local governments are in the best position to identify where the risks are greatest and where safety improvements are urgently needed.

SB 367 is a thoughtful, balanced approach. It does not create unlimited enforcement power. The bill includes clear limits on how and where pedestrian safety measures may be enforced, ensuring that these tools are used only in designated high-risk areas and for genuine safety purposes.

Equally important, the bill requires that all warning signs meet state highway standards. This ensures consistency, visibility, and fairness for drivers, while preventing confusing or improper signage. Everyone on the road benefits when safety rules are clear and uniform.

This legislation is about saving lives, not generating fines. It gives local leaders a practical way to protect pedestrians, improve traffic safety, and respond to real, documented hazards in their communities

We ask that you carefully consider Senate Bill 367 and support it.

Respectfully,

WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

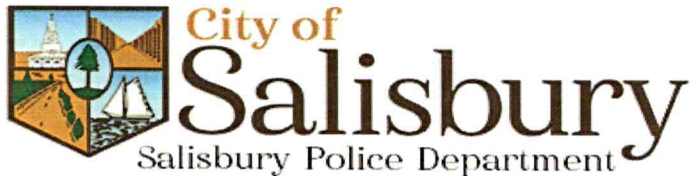


Julie M. Giordano
County Executive

SB0367 Chief SPD.pdf

Uploaded by: David Meienschein

Position: FAV



February 02, 2026

The Honorable Mary Beth Carozza

James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 316
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support of SB 0367

Dear Senator Carozza:
District 38

As Chief of Police for the City of Salisbury, I am writing you to express my support of SB0367

Between the dates of January 1 and December 31, 2025, the Salisbury Police Department responded to 120 calls for service related to solicitation for money. Last year in 2025, of the 120 calls for solicitation, 45 calls or 37% were reported as aggressive behavior (24-calls) or impeding traffic (21-calls) respectively.

Solicitors are often known to law enforcement and are found to suffer from either mental health issues and or substance use disorders. Often these individuals are found to be intoxicated and create a situation of risk of serious injury or death to both the solicitor, in the roadway, and all individuals who are operating motor vehicles around the solicitor.

Although I am sympathetic to the motives for soliciting money in this manner, I believe by redirecting the generosity of motorist would better serve the situation by donating to local organizations and would have a greater impact by providing valuable and more efficient resources to a greater number of individuals.

I am in favor of passing this legislation to allow our law enforcement to make appropriate contact with individuals who may be in crisis, connect them with available services, and engage mental health co-responder teams when appropriate. This outcome would directly support the solicitor's needs, and will service to enhance roadway safety for everyone who travels through our community.

For these reasons, this Office supports SB 367 and respectfully urges its passage.

Respectfully,



David T. Meienschein
Chief of Police
City of Salisbury



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20260202 SB367 Carozza Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Jamie Dykes

Position: FAV



JAMIE L. DYKES
STATE'S ATTORNEY

DATE: February 2, 2026

BILL NUMBER: SB 0367

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. SB 367 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 SB 367 and respectfully urges its passage.

SB 0367 - Favorable 2.2.2026.pdf

Uploaded by: Kimberly Miles

Position: FAV



Kimberly Miles
Assistant Superintendent for
Student & Family Services

Wicomico County Public Schools

2424 Northgate Drive, Salisbury • P.O. Box 1538, Salisbury, MD 21802-1538 • 410-677-4400

Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow

Division of Student & Family Services

DATE: February 2, 2026

BILL NUMBER: SB 0367

POSITION: Favorable

The pedestrian traffic associated with persons standing in active travel lanes or immediately adjacent to these lanes in the areas including business entrances and exits, shopping locations, and intersections often creates areas of concern for motor vehicle operators and safety issues for everyone involved. As a representative of Wicomico County Public Schools and with specific reference to our Transportation Department and our School Climate & Safety Department, the safety concerns presented in these areas are increasing and require immediate attention in order to better ensure safe passage.

SB 367 serves to provide tools and direction for law enforcement to support a safe arrangement between pedestrians and motorists while allowing for intervention intended to reduce the risk of tragedy. The mixing of pedestrians standing in the areas outlined in the Wicomico County – Highway Pedestrian Safety Act with the vehicles, often including those transporting students to and from our schools, presents dangerous situations that must be addressed. The utilization of appropriate signage partnered with the responsibilities of law enforcement afforded with this bill will work to alleviate the levels of concern in these areas identified as “inherently dangerous.”

Our community members deserve all efforts that support safety as a top priority. For these reasons, and on behalf of our superintendent, Dr. Micah Stauffer, our school system leadership supports SB 367 and respectfully urges the passage of such.

www.wicomicoschools.org

26-0130 L Smith - SB 367.pdf

Uploaded by: Laura Hurley

Position: FAV



WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

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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

January 30, 2026

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

Re: Support for Senate Bill 367 – Wicomico County – Highway Pedestrian Safety Act

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee:

This letter is in support of Senate Bill 367, 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.

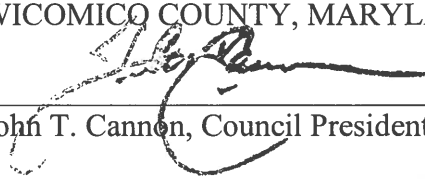
Just as important, Senate Bill 367 includes clear limits on enforcement. A police officer may not issue a citation unless proper warning signs are installed and the signs meet State Highway Administration standards. This ensures that the public is clearly notified and that enforcement is fair and consistent.

Wicomico County has several high-speed roads and busy intersections where standing in the roadway creates a real safety concern. Senate Bill 367 provides a reasonable and balanced way to address these hazards.

We urge your favorable consideration of Senate Bill 367.

Sincerely,

WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND



John T. Cannon, Council President

Enclosure

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

SENATE BILL 367

R5

6lr1998
CF 6lr2000

By: **Senators Carozza and Mautz**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2026

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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:

Article – Transportation

16
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.**

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.**

SB 367 - Carozza Testimony_FINAL.pdf

Uploaded by: Mary Beth Carozza

Position: FAV

MARY BETH CAROZZA
Legislative District 38
Somerset, Wicomico,
and Worcester Counties

Education, Energy, and
the Environment Committee



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MaryBeth.Carozza@senate.state.md.us

Executive Nominations Committee

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 4, 2025
The Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
SB 367 – Wicomico County – Highway Pedestrian Safety Act
Statement of Support by Bill Sponsor Senator Mary Beth Carozza

Thank you Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the distinguished Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee for this opportunity to present Senate Bill 367, the Wicomico County Highway Pedestrian Safety Act. I want to thank the Committee members for their support of a previous version of this legislation, Senate Bill 101 of 2025, which unanimously passed the Senate and was being considered on the House floor, but ultimately did not receive final passage before the end of the legislative session.

This local, enabling legislation would prohibit a person from standing in a roadway, shoulder, median divide, or intersection determined by Wicomico County or a municipality in Wicomico County to be inherently dangerous. An individual who stands in a roadway poses various challenges and risks to themselves, the drivers on the road, the responding officers, and the surrounding community.

Since 2022, the Salisbury Police Department has responded to 457 calls for service related to highway and pedestrian safety issues. From January 1 to December 31, 2025, there were 120 calls alone, and 45 of those calls were reported as aggressive behavior or impeding traffic. There have been instances where the individual places him or herself directly in front of an oncoming vehicle, and situations where students are placing themselves in danger by fundraising from the median strip.

This has been a recurring public safety issue in our community with officers encountering situations in which pedestrians are acting unstable and, in many cases, aggressive toward motorists, and where individuals appear to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol, further compounding the danger.

As this Committee knows, while Maryland law contains general pedestrian and traffic safety provisions, existing statutes do not adequately address this specific and escalating conduct. Passage of this legislation would enable officers in Wicomico County 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 important, it will enhance roadway safety for everyone who travels throughout our community.

It is important to note that SB 367 does not criminalize individuals who are soliciting donations,

as a police officer may not issue a citation unless the appropriate signage notifying the public that they cannot stand in the inherently dangerous roadway, shoulder, median divider, or intersection has been installed. This legislation is fully intended to increase public safety by ensuring that individuals are not standing in roadways, regardless of their intentions, where it could be dangerous. Individuals in roadways have become an increasing public safety concern in Wicomico County, and prohibiting this action would allow our public safety officers to protect the public and assist those individuals who may need assistance due to poverty and homelessness.

As stated previously, this legislation was previously introduced in a different form as SB 101 of 2025, which was modeled after other local enabling bills that already passed and are in effect in Carroll, Charles, Harford, and Washington counties (Transportation Article 21-507(c)). SB 101 unanimously passed the Senate, unanimously passed the House Environment and Transportation Committee as amended, but ultimately did not make final passage before Sine Die.

During the Interim, I worked with Delegate Vaughn Stewart, former Chair of the Motor Vehicle and Transportation Subcommittee of the House Environment and Transportation Committee, to discuss the best path forward on this important local public safety legislation. The topic of solicitations in roadways has received conflicting opinions from the Office of the Attorney General over the years. We believe SB 367 as a content-neutral bill addresses the questions raised by the Office of the Attorney General.

Senate Bill 367 would simply prohibit a person from standing in a roadway determined by Wicomico County to be inherently dangerous (which means posing a serious risk of injury to a pedestrian, a driver or passenger in a vehicle, or other persons that cannot be mitigated with the exercise of ordinary care).

This local bill is supported by the Salisbury Police Department, the Wicomico Sheriff's Office, Wicomico Public Schools, the City of Salisbury, Salisbury University, the Wicomico County Council, the Wicomico County Executive, and the Wicomico County State's Attorney.

I thank you for your kind attention and consideration, and I respectfully request a favorable and very swift report on SB 367, the Wicomico County Highway Pedestrian Safety Act, a priority local public safety bill.

SB 367 - Delegate Support Letter - Committee Requi

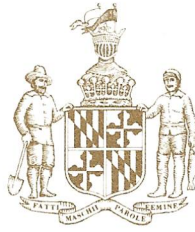
Uploaded by: Mary Beth Carozza

Position: FAV

MARY BETH CAROZZA
Legislative District 38
Somerset, Wicomico, and
Worcester Counties

Education, Energy, and
the Environment Committee

Executive Nominations Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 4, 2025

The Honorable Will Smith
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Smith,

The Wicomico County Delegation supports Senate Bill 367 – Wicomico County – Highway Pedestrian Safety Act. I thank you for your committee's consideration of this bill and request a favorable report.

In Service,

Handwritten signature of Mary Beth Carozza in black ink.

MARY BETH CAROZZA
State Senator – District 38
Somerset, Worcester, and Wicomico

Handwritten signature of Johnny Mautz in black ink.

JOHNNY MAUTZ
State Senator – District 37
Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot and Wicomico

SB 367 - Salisbury University - Letter of Support.

Uploaded by: Molly O'Hara

Position: FAV



Make Tomorrow Yours

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January 30, 2026
The Honorable Mary Beth Carozza
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 316
Annapolis, MD. 21401

Dear Senator Carozza,

As the Chief of Police at Salisbury University, I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 367, which seeks to prohibit individuals in Wicomico County from standing in roadways, median dividers, or intersections to solicit money or donations from vehicle occupants. This legislation is crucial for enhancing public safety, particularly in areas surrounding our university campus.

High-traffic areas near the University have become common sites for roadway solicitation. Individuals engaging in this practice often come into close contact with students commuting to and from campus. This proximity raises significant safety concerns, including traffic hazards, whereby solicitors standing in or near roadways can distract drivers and inadvertently cause accidents. The presence of pedestrians in the roadways soliciting money in these areas increases the risk of vehicle-pedestrian collisions, endangering both solicitors and motorists.

The personal safety of our students is our number one priority. Students may feel uncomfortable or threatened when approached by solicitors, especially during evening hours. This can lead to avoidance behaviors, such as taking longer routes, which may expose them to other risks.

Senate Bill 367 aligns Wicomico County with other Maryland counties that have implemented similar measures to protect public safety. This legislation will help reduce the potential for accidents and enhance the overall security of our community.

I ask the Senate to give favorable consideration to Senate Bill 367. Enacting this bill will contribute to the safety and well-being of Salisbury University students and the broader Wicomico County community.

Sincerely,

Edwin Lashley
Chief of Police