



Larry Hogan
Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor
Gregory Slater
Acting Secretary

February 6, 2020

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Chairman, House Environment and Transportation Committee
251 House Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401

Re: Letter of Support – House Bill 158 – Vehicle Laws – Equipment and Inspections – Standards and Requirements

Dear Chairman Barve and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) supports House Bill 158 as a means of reconciling discrepancies that have accumulated in statute over time, and modernizing certain vehicle safety standards to improve highway safety.

House Bill 158 makes several changes to conform the Transportation Article to the Public Safety Article of the Maryland Code. Currently, there are several discrepancies between Maryland State Police (MSP) and the MDOT Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) which have developed over the years as new research and technology have reshaped automotive safety. Among other changes, the proposed legislation will update provisions related to motorcycle braking distance to reflect modern vehicle capabilities, and authorize a specific type of pulsating brake light which has been found to improve reaction time.

As an active partner of the Automotive Safety Enforcement Division of the Maryland State Police (MSP), and as the administrator of Maryland's comprehensive network of safety programs through our Maryland Highway Safety Office, MDOT MVA supports MSP's efforts to make needed updates to vehicle safety requirements to reflect modern standards in the automotive industry. Reconciling these differences in the Transportation Article and the Public Safety Article provides needed clarity for Maryland motorists, businesses, and regulators.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests that the Committee grant House Bill 158 a favorable report. Should there be any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Department.

Respectfully submitted,

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