



AAA Mid-Atlantic's Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 162 Transportation – Potomac River Bridges Towing Compact – Inclusion of Additional Bridges

Sponsors: Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee (By Request – Departmental – Transportation)

- AAA Mid-Atlantic **supports** [HB 162](#), which, as drafted, would add the Governor Harry W. Nice/Senator Thomas “Mac” Middleton Bridge, Sandy Hook Bridge, Brunswick Bridge, and Point of Rocks Bridge, to the list Potomac River bridges subject to the Potomac River Bridge Towing Compact.
- The Compact facilitates the prompt and orderly removal of disabled and abandoned vehicles from the bridges by giving Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia the appropriate authority anywhere on the bridges.
- The amendment to the Compact helps to alleviate traffic congestion upon the bridges caused by disabled vehicles by allowing law enforcement to respond to incidents and have the vehicle removed from the bridge even if the vehicle is not technically within the officer’s jurisdiction.
- In FY 2017, the traffic volume of the Governor Harry W. Nice/Senator Thomas “Mac” Middleton Bridge was 6.8 million vehicles. The Sandy Hook Bridge and Brunswick Bridge are both situated near the gateway to Harper’s Ferry, which draws thousands of tourists annually. The Point of Rocks Bridge is currently undergoing replacement through early 2020.
- This amendment to the Compact is not effective until a substantially similar amendment is enacted by the State of Maryland and the District of Columbia. The State of Virginia enacted [Chapter 304](#) of the 2019 Virginia Assembly on March 14, 2019. The District of Columbia is also considering legislation ([B23-0166](#) – Potomac River Bridges Towing Compact Amendment Act of 2019). A public hearing was held on January 23, 2020.
- If enacted and signed into law, HB 162 would take effect thirty days after the legislative bodies of parties having jurisdiction over one or several of the bridges identified in the Article have enacted compacts substantially identical to this Compact. AAA support HB 162, and we respectfully urge the Committee to render a favorable report.

Contacts:

*John B. Townsend II
Manager of Public and Government Affairs,
AAA Mid-Atlantic
202.481.6820*

*Ragina C. Ali, AAA Mid-Atlantic
Public and Government Affairs Manager
410.616.1900 ext. 43-61152*

*Sherrie Sims, GS Proctor and Associates
Senior State Associate
410.733.7171*