



**SB 512**  
**Vehicle Laws – Injury or Death of Vulnerable Individual - Penalties**  
**Judiciary Committee**  
**Position: Favorable**

Maryland AGC, the Maryland Chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America, provides professional education, business development, and advocacy for commercial construction companies and vendors, including highway, road, and bridge constructors. While the overwhelming majority of our members are open shop, we welcome union contractors and are the bargaining agent with four of the basic trades. AGC of America is the nation’s largest and oldest trade association for the construction industry. AGC of America represents more than 26,000 firms, including over 6,500 of America’s leading general contractors, and over 9,000 specialty-contracting firms. Maryland AGC supports SB 512 and respectfully urges the bill be given a favorable report.

The principal impact of SB 512 on the construction industry would be to enhance safety for workers in highway work zones. Work zones are inherently dangerous for both workers and motorists: normal traffic patterns are disrupted; lanes may be squeezed closer together; reflective barrels, cones, and signage are distracting; and space and time to react are reduced. In recognition of the danger to highway workers and motorists alike, Maryland has enacted work zone speed control law (Transportation Article, §21-810). This has had a measurable effect in reducing injuries and fatalities. However, speed zones are only used in limited circumstances, and the vast majority of highway, road, and bridge work takes place without the protection of work zone speed cameras.

SB 512 extends the protection of highway workers under current law by imposing both higher penalties and additional requirements, including mandatory court appearance, license suspension, and the possibility of community service. The overwhelming majority of drivers are attentive to the special circumstances of work zones and will not be affected by SB 512. However, for the minority of reckless drivers who ignore the hazard their indifference poses to highway workers and other vulnerable individuals, not to mention to themselves, SB 512 would send a direct message with meaningful consequences for their behavior. This additional step will further the protection for highway workers and other vulnerable individuals.

Accordingly, Maryland AGC respectfully urges the Committee to give SB 512 a favorable report.

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