



BERNARD C. "JACK" YOUNG
MAYOR

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HB 252

March 3, 2020

TO: Members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Matthew Stegman, Deputy Director of Government Relations

RE: House Bill 252 – Public Safety - Department of State Police - Primary Enforcement for Interstate 83 (Jones Falls Expressway) in Baltimore City

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Atterbeary, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 252.

The Jones Falls Expressway (JFX) in Baltimore City is one of the most well travelled roadways in the state of Maryland, carrying 140,000 passengers per day. Construction of the JFX began in the late 1950s and the highway does not meet many of the safety specifications typical of more modern highways. As a result, it is also one of the most dangerous roadways in Baltimore City. Baltimore City Police Department's traffic enforcement division reported that between January 1, 2018 and December 1, 2019 687 collisions were reported on the JFX within City limits – nearly a crash per day.

Unlike many other controlled-access highways throughout the state, the Baltimore City Police Department has primary responsibility to patrol, enforce traffic laws, and respond to emergencies along the JFX. The high volume of crashes takes officers from the Northern and Central Districts off of neighborhood patrol to respond to highway accidents. A severe crash can take two or three BPD units off the streets for several hours or more.

Transferring primary traffic enforcement responsibility along I-83 to the Maryland State Police would allow BPD to better allocate patrol resources and improve public safety within Baltimore City. We respectfully request a **favorable** report on House Bill 252.

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