



ABATE OF MARYLAND, INC.

Dedicated to the Freedom of the Road and Responsible Motorcycle Legislation

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman Kumar P. Barve, Vice Chairman Dana Stein and Members of the Environmental and Transportation Committee

FROM: Executive Director, Kenneth V. Sawyer, Abate of Maryland, Inc.

DATE: January 17, 2021

RE: **HB0494 – Vehicle Laws – Excessive Speeding**

POSITION: **FAVORABLE**

Abate of Maryland, Inc. is for keeping our public roads safer and, as the voice of motorcyclists throughout the state of Maryland, we are in favor of HB0494. The proposed amendment to this bill seeks to add speeding in excess of 20 MPH over the speed limit requires the person must appear in Court and may not prepay the fine.

The current law does not have a speed limit requirement and leaves to the officer's discretion as to what constitutes wanton or willful disregard for the safety of persons or property. The current law also allows for payment of a fine without a court appearance.

Passage of this bill, requiring a court appearance for persons speeding more than 20 MPH over the speed limit, would deter motorists from traveling at such unsafe speeds.

Kenneth V. Sawyer, Executive Director
Abate of Maryland, Inc.