

January 14, 2021

Bill Number: HB0346

Name: Vehicle Laws - Failure to Pay Video Toll – Penalties

Sponsor: Delegate Al Carr

Position: Favorable

Dear Chair Barve, Vice-Chair Stein, and Members of the Environment & Transportation Committee-

Last year I was happy to support the bill identical to House Bill 346, which had bipartisan support and passed the House of Delegates. Unfortunately due to the pandemic, it did not make it out of the Senate before session was cut short.

Maryland drivers cannot wait another year for this problem to be corrected. Many drivers whose registrations are suspended due to EZ Pass debt are also in other forms of debt, and that number is sadly increasing due to the high unemployment and underemployment rates since Coronavirus drastically changed our employment landscape. The burden of EZ Pass debt, plus the burden, cost, and risk of having a suspended registration, plus the new, life-threatening burden of Coronavirus is placing too many Maryland drivers on path financial destruction.

This may seem like a small issue to those who have been less affected by the Pandemic, but it's a huge issue to much of the working class of Maryland. Respectfully, please move quickly to pass this bill once again, so that Marylander's in distress have one less thing to worry about.

I ask for your favorable report of HB0346.

Sincerely,
Cristi Demnowicz
LD 7