
April 9, 2021

The Honorable William C. Smith
Chair, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401

Re: Letter of Information – House Bill 964 – Vehicle Laws – Driving in the Right-Hand Lane – Interstate Highways in Rural Areas

Dear Chair Smith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 964 but offers the following information for the Committee's consideration.

House Bill 964 requires drivers traveling at a speed lower than or slower than the general speed, if practicable as determined by the driver, shall drive in the right-hand lane in designated rural areas. House Bill 964 requires MDOT State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) to post signage along the highway and MDOT SHA dynamic-message signs.

The MDOT SHA Office of Traffic and Safety has determined House Bill 964 would require an additional 1,000 signs at a cost of \$246,104.98. The MDOT SHA would also need to confirm with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) that the messaging requirement on the dynamic-message signs is compliant with FHWA policy. If the messaging is not compliant, MDOT SHA could jeopardize the federal funding it receives from FHWA.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information when deliberating House Bill 964.

Respectfully Submitted,

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