

HB_1206_Jalisi_Testimony

Uploaded by: Del. Jay Jalisi

Position: FAV

DR. JAY JALISI
Legislative District 10
Baltimore County

Environment and Transportation
Committee

Subcommittees
Local Government and Bi-County
Agencies
Natural Resources, Agriculture,
and Open Space



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Annapolis Office
The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 412
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3358 · 301-858-3358
800-492-7122 Ext. 3358
Fax 410-841-3100 · 301-858-3100
Jay.Jalisi@house.state.md.us

District Office
8310 Liberty Road
Windsor Mill, Maryland 21244
410-363-6000

Testimony of Delegate Dr. Jay Jalisi
Before the Environment and Transportation Committee

In Support of HB 1296
Motor Vehicles – Driver’s License and Insurance Offenses - Penalties

March 10, 2022, 1:00pm

Chair Barve, Vice-Chair Stein, and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

I come before you today to introduce my bill HB 1296.

I have submitted an amendment 493626/1 to this bill which should be kindly considered in your deliberations.

With the amendment, my bill reduces the maximum penalty for driving without an active auto insurance policy from a current penalty of \$1,000 and 1-year jail term to \$500 (generally from \$1,000) or the first 3 offenses and for the 4th offense it goes to \$1,000.

My bill removes the jail term completely.

As the esteemed members of this Committee know every well, the auto insurance premiums in Maryland are tied to a person’s credit score, due to which a driver with lower FICO score – or no credit history – pays more in auto insurance premiums. This negatively affects people with low socio-economic means or new immigrants to our country – both groups of people we need to be especially considerate about.

Besides the financial impact of a \$1,000 fine, the one-year jail term for a non-violent crime causes a major adverse impact on not just the driver but also his/her entire family.

Therefore, I request that you give a favorable vote and pass my bill.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a yellow background, appearing to read 'Jay'.

Delegate Dr. Jay Jalisi

HB_1296_Amendment_Jalisi

Uploaded by: Del. Jay Jalisi

Position: FAV



HB1296/493626/1

AMENDMENTS
PREPARED
BY THE
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

07 MAR 22
17:53:28

BY: Delegate Jalisi

(To be offered in the Environment and Transportation Committee)

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 1296

(First Reading File Bill)

On page 3, in line 29, strike the bracket; in line 30, after “first” insert “**SECOND, OR THIRD**”; in the same line, strike “imprisonment not exceeding 1 year or”; and in line 31, strike “\$1,000 or both” and substitute “**\$500**”.

On page 4, in line 1, strike “second” and substitute “**FOURTH**”; in the same line, strike “2 years” and substitute “**1 YEAR**”; in line 2, strike the brackets; and in the same line, strike “**\$50**”.

HB1296 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus

Position: FAV



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

Lowe House Office Building, 6 Bladen Street, Room 200 · Annapolis, Maryland 21401
Phone 410-841-3374 | 301-858-3374 · 800-492-7122 Ext. 3374 · Fax 410-841-3342 | 301-858-3342
latino.caucus@house.state.md.us · www.mdlatinocaucus.org

DAVID FRASER-HIDALGO, CHAIR
JOSELINE A. PEÑA-MELNYK, VICE-CHAIR
GABRIEL ACEVERO, TREASURER
JESSE T. PIPPY, SECRETARY
MADELIN MARTINEZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SENATORS
MALCOLM AUGUSTINE
PAMELA G. BEIDLE
JILL P. CARTER
GUY GUZZONE
SHELLY HETTLEMAN
CHERYL C. KAGAN
BENJAMIN F. KRAMER
SUSAN C. LEE
JIM ROSAPEPE
WILLIAM C. SMITH, JR.
JEFF WALDSTREICHER
MARY L. WASHINGTON, PH.D.
RONALD N. YOUNG
CRAIG J. ZUCKER

DELEGATES
HEATHER BAGNALL
BEN BARNES
J. SANDY BARTLETT
LISA BELCASTRO
REGINA T. BOYCE
AL CARR
LORIG CHARKOUDIAN
CHARLOTTE CRUTCHFIELD
BONNIE CULLISON
JESSICA FELDMARK
DIANA M. FENNELL
WANIKA B. FISHER, ESQ.
LINDA FOLEY
CATHI FORBES
JIM GILCHRIST
ANNE HEALEY
SHANEKA HENSON
TERRI L. HILL, M.D.
JULIAN IVEY
DANA JONES
ARIANA KELLY
KENNETH P. KERR, ED.D
MARC KORMAN
CAROL L. KRIMM
MARY A. LEHMAN
JAZZ LEWIS
ROBBYN LEWIS
BROOKE E. LIERMAN
LESLEY J. LOPEZ
SARA N. LOVE
ERIC LUEDTKE
MAGGIE MCINTOSH
DAVID MOON
JULIE PALAKOVICH CARR
SHANE PENDERGRASS
LILY QI
PAMELA E. QUEEN
MIKE ROGERS
SHEILA RUTH
EMILY SHETTY
STEPHANIE SMITH
JARED SOLOMON
VAUGHN STEWART
JEN TERRASA
GERALDINE VALENTINO-SMITH
ALONZO T. WASHINGTON
MELISSA WELLS
NICOLE A. WILLIAMS, ESQ.
KAREN LEWIS YOUNG

TO: Delegate Kumar P. Barve, Chair
Delegate Dana Stein, Vice Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee Members
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus (MLLC)
DATE: March 8, 2022
RE: HB1296 Motor Vehicles Driver's License and Insurance
Offenses - Penalties

The MLLC supports HB1296 - Motor Vehicles - Driver's License and Insurance Offenses - Penalties

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a crucial voice in the development of public policy that uplifts the Latino community and benefits the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB1296.

Auto insurance is tied to FICO scores in Maryland, which means Latino immigrants without credit histories either cannot get auto insurance, or the rates are so high that they cannot afford it. For immigrants, routine traffic stops can have life altering consequences. For legal residents, if their current green card or permit expires because of processing delays, they could lose their auto insurance and their driver's license. This puts the entire family in the predicament of whether to risk driving to work without a license or lose their job. Driving without a valid license is a criminal misdemeanor in Maryland. However, it is still a jailable offense which could jeopardize the approval of their immigration case, not to mention the economic burden the legal fees cause on already struggling families.

This bill will end or reduce the jail time and fine for driving with a revoked or suspended driving license due to the lack of auto insurance. Rising auto insurance prices puts Marylanders already struggling to pay for normal daily expenses in a tough spot; thus, sometimes they have to choose to pay their car insurance to avoid jail, instead of paying for other basic needs.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB0404.

HB1296 - MVA - Driver's License and Insurance Offe

Uploaded by: Molly O'Hara

Position: INFO

March 10, 2022

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Chairman, House Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: Letter of Information – House Bill 1296 – Motor Vehicles - Driver's License and Insurance
Offenses - Penalties**

Dear Chairman Barve and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 1296 but offers the following information for the Committee's consideration.

House Bill 1296 replaces the incarcerable penalties for violations of MD Code Ann. Trans. II § 16-303 (a)-(g) (2012) and 17-07 with a \$50 fine. It appears to be a payable fine that does not require a traffic court appearance.

Although the bill does not alter the Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration's (MDOT MVA) assessment of points and any subsequent license action that is imposed, the bill does present several ancillary safety-related consequences connected to MDOT MVA administrative enforcement that should be taken into consideration.

The administrative actions specified in 16-303 (a)-(g) are imposed predominately due to violations stemming from driver behavior related to safety concerns. These suspensions include items such as accumulation of points, drunk and drugged driving offenses, fraudulent activities, and medical disqualifications of driving. The MDOT MVA is concerned that decreasing the penalty to only \$50 for driving while suspended for these items could lead to individuals ignoring the suspension/revocation of their license and continuing to drive. The incentive to modify the individual's driving behavior is lessened and could have a negative impact on our state's highway safety.

This fine reduction may also impact enrollment in the State's Ignition Interlock Program. The ignition interlock program is a tool that allows individuals to continue driving while addressing their alcohol use and ensuring the safety of highways and roadways by stopping an automobile's ignition start when certain levels of alcohol are detected. The program has a monthly monitoring fee, and the individual may, as a result of this bill, determine that the \$50 penalty is cheaper than the monthly monitoring fee.

Currently, the violation of operating a motor vehicle without insurance specified in 17-107 holds the possible penalty of incarceration and maximum fine of \$1,000. With this proposed legislation, violators would now only face a maximum fine of \$50, without incarceration periods or the must-appear requirement. This action could lead to more motorists operating while uninsured. The \$50 fine amount, if caught, is most likely less than the average liability monthly insurance rate.

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Page Two

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests that the Committee consider this information when deliberating House Bill 1296.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine E. Nizer
Administrator
Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration
410-787-7830

Pilar Helm
State Legislative Officer
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-865-1102