



Larry Hogan  
Governor  
Boyd K. Rutherford  
Lt. Governor  
James F. Ports, Jr.  
Secretary

January 18, 2022

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

***RE: Letter of Information – Senate Bill 87 – Vehicle Laws – Intersections – Prohibited Acts***

Dear Chairman Smith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on Senate Bill 87 but offers the following information for the Committee's consideration.

Senate Bill 87 prohibits drivers from entering the intersection of a green or yellow signal if the vehicle cannot completely clear the intersection. Enforcement of the Bill's provisions are contingent on signs being installed at an intersection, in accordance with standards specified in the Maryland Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

When a driver decides to enter an intersection without the ability to fully clear the intersection, it impedes the movements of other road users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and other motor vehicles. These unexpected conditions – blocked crosswalks and bike lanes – force pedestrians and bicyclists to make unpredictable movements to navigate the intersection, resulting in unsafe conditions and potential crashes.

Senate Bill 87 aims to improve pedestrian safety by reducing the likelihood of pedestrian crashes. Additionally, clarifying language enables law enforcement officials to enforce existing traffic laws concerning intersection movements.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information when deliberating Senate Bill 87.

Sincerely,

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Maryland State Highway Administration  
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Director of Government Affairs  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
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