



## House Bill 601

### *Street Racing and Exhibition Driving – Prohibited Acts, Enforcement, and Penalties*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Environment and Transportation  
Committee

Date: February 15, 2024

From: Sarah Sample

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 601. This bill establishes prohibited acts, penalties, and enforcement for exhibition driving. Additionally, it authorizes statewide procedures for special sanctioned street racing and exhibition driving events in local jurisdictions.

Unauthorized and reckless exhibition driving has been increasing in Maryland, with a number of counties citing serious safety and quality of life concerns as a result. The bill's prohibitions and penalties make clear that individuals engaging in these restricted behaviors will be held accountable for the threat it poses to public safety.

Almost equally as important, the bill understands that local jurisdictions might opt to sanction temporary, safe, and controlled environments for drivers to perform in special event zones, where certain behaviors are specifically permitted. This authorization and flexibility further enable local governments to consider the needs and concerns of a wider range of residents and their interests.

Counties appreciate the comprehensive approach this bill takes to addressing this issue. MACo urges a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 601.