



Maryland Department of Transportation
The Secretary's Office

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor

James T. Smith, Jr.
Secretary

December 19, 2013

The Honorable Thomas V. "Mike" Miller, Jr.
President, Maryland Senate
107 State House
Annapolis MD 21401

The Honorable Michael E. Busch
Speaker, Maryland House of Delegates
101 State House
Annapolis MD 21401

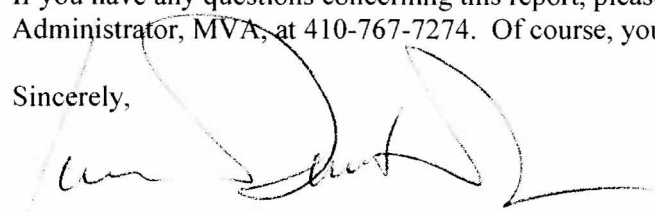
Dear President Miller and Speaker Busch:

Please see the attached report concerning *Drunk and Drugged Driving by Juveniles*, which was written in response to language set forth in Senate Bill 371, Chapter 55, Acts of 1991. This statute directs the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to:

- "(1) Regularly compile and analyze statistics on drunk and drugged driving by juveniles and young adults;
- (2) Work with the Department of Juvenile Services, the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Maryland State Police, and other law enforcement agencies to monitor the effects of Chapter 254 of the Acts of 1988 and Chapters 438 and 551 of the Acts of 1989 (requiring the imposition of an alcohol restriction on the license of a driver under the age of 21), and Chapter 284 of the Acts of 1989 ("administrative per se" law) on juvenile and young adult offenders;
- (3) Annually report, SUBJECT TO § 2-1312 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, to the General Assembly regarding the information collected under paragraphs (1) and (2) of this section; and
- (4) Publicize recent legislative enactments concerning drunk and drugged driving by juveniles and young adults."

If you have any questions concerning this report, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. John T. Kuo, Administrator, MVA, at 410-767-7274. Of course, you should always feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,


James T. Smith, Jr.
Secretary

cc: Mr. John T. Kuo, Administrator, MVA

My telephone number is 410-865-1000
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7201 Corporate Center Drive, Hanover, Maryland 21076

A Report to the Maryland General Assembly

Regarding

Drunk and Drugged Driving by Juveniles
(Senate Bill 371, Chapter 55, Acts of 1991)

Motor Vehicle Administration
The Maryland Department of Transportation

December 2013

Drunk and Drugged Driving by Juveniles (Senate Bill 371, Chapter 55, Acts of 1991)

This report is written in response to language contained in Senate Bill 371, Section 6, Chapter 55, Acts of 1991, which calls on the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to:

- “(1) *Regularly compile and analyze statistics on drunk and drugged driving by juveniles and young adults;*
- “(2) *Work with the Department of Juvenile Services, the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Maryland State Police, and other law enforcement agencies to monitor the effects of Chapter 254 of the Acts of 1988 and Chapters 438 and 551 of the Acts of 1989 (requiring the imposition of an alcohol restriction on the license of a driver under the age of 21), and Chapter 284 of the Acts of 1989 (“administrative per se” law) on juvenile and young adult offenders;*
- “(3) *Annually report, SUBJECT TO § 2-1312 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, to the General Assembly regarding the information collected under paragraphs (1) and (2) of this section; and*
- “(4) *Publicize recent legislative enactments concerning drunk and drugged driving by juveniles and young adults.”*

The District Court provides the MVA with an annual summary of juveniles charged. The most recent information provided by the Court indicates that 2,032 drivers under 21 Statewide were charged in FY 2013. The following chart provides data on the number of drivers under 21 charged under TR § 21-902:

| TR § 21-902 | FY 2013 | FY 2012 | FY 2011 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|
| Total Number of Drivers Under 21 Years of Age | 180,262 | 180,668 | 188,526 |
| Citations Written for Under 21 - Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol and/or Drugs, TR § 21-902 | 2,032 | 2,612 | 2,673 |
| Under 21 § 21-902 Charges as a % of Total Under 21 Drivers | 1.13% | 1.45% | 1.42% |

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) initiated several efforts to strengthen public awareness on the hazards and consequences of drinking and driving. Activities undertaken by the MVA, often working in concert with several other State and local agencies and community groups, include:

- Maryland’s 1998 Graduated Licensing System law (Chapter 483, Acts of 1998), which requires that all novice drivers complete a driver education program. Beginning in July 1999, MDOT mandated a comprehensive driver education curriculum for all driver education schools. Part of the curriculum focuses on Maryland’s drunk and drugged driving laws, acquainting all students (98 percent of whom are juveniles ages 15 - 17) with details on the various laws and their penalties. This curriculum was updated in 2010

to include recent updates to Maryland's laws and to expand the sections pertaining to impaired driving.

- The Maryland Driver's Manual details Maryland's drunk driving laws, stressing not to drink and drive. The handbook includes specific information on underage drinking and outlines the penalties and sanctions under Maryland's law, which prohibits a driver under the age of 21 from driving with any alcohol in the driver's blood (TR §16-113 (b) & (j)).
- The MVA's Rookie Driver Program distributes a brochure to youth and their parents outlining Maryland's laws and urges drivers not to drink or use drugs and drive. Continuing outreach to parents through local parent/teacher organizations and other parent groups also stresses the dangers of impaired driving. The Department solicits a strong and on-going parental role in driver education and calls on parents to discourage drinking and driving, or using drugs and driving. The MVA also distributes a parent-teen driving agreement establishing rules and privileges for vehicle use that encourages parents to establish sanctions for alcohol or drug use and driving.
- MVA's Maryland Highway Safety Office (MHSO) includes impaired driving as an emphasis area in its Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). The impaired driving Emphasis Area Team (EAT) is dedicated to working on issues and incorporating key strategies and countermeasures on impaired driving across the state. The SHSP also includes young drivers as a target group that is represented within that emphasis area.
- Additionally, the MHSO is involved with the Maryland Safe Teen Driving Coalition, which focuses on young driver safety issues including impaired driving. The coalition has worked with State legislators, safety professionals and law enforcement to raise awareness of key young driver safety issues through outreach and public education.
- MVA's MHSO also provides various educational materials regarding drinking and drugged driving to Maryland residents. Materials are distributed through the Regional Traffic Safety Program in each of the 24 jurisdictions and directly to local law enforcement agencies and private citizens.
- Other local and regional initiatives targeting underage drinking in Maryland include: Impaired Driving Emphasis Area Team; Montgomery County's "Drawing the Line on Underage Alcohol Use"; the "Every 15 Minutes" program in Carroll County; the MADD "Power of Parents" program; the Washington Regional Alcohol Program; and Garrett County's SADD-Sponsored "Safe and Sober" Event.
- The MVA also supported an innovative drunk driving film, "Branded D.U.I.," a joint project of the Administrative Law Section of the Maryland State Bar Association and the Maryland Office of Administrative Hearings. The film was co-produced by and aired on Maryland Public Television (MPT) in 2006. This film was also distributed to every high school in Maryland. The film showcases eleven real-life teens caught drinking and driving and interviewed as they underwent the court process resulting from their drunk

driving charges. It explores the consequences from the fatalities the teens caused including their experiences in jail. The film was recognized with an *Emmy* award.

- The MVA supported and implemented Maryland's 2011 Drunk Driving Reduction Act enacted October 1, 2011. This Act requires mandatory suspensions or ignition interlock participation for alcohol offenses committed by individuals who are under the age of twenty-one.