



Maryland Department of Transportation
The Secretary's Office

January 21, 2008

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor

John D. Porcari
Secretary

Beverly K. Swaim-Staley
Deputy Secretary

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

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

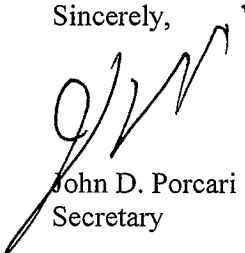
Dear President Miller and Speaker Busch:

Section 2, Chapter 413, Acts of 1990 and Section 6, Chapter 55, Acts of 1991 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 (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 offender;*
3. *Report to the General Assembly annually on these matters; and*
4. *Publicize recent legislative enactment's concerning drunk and drugged driving by juveniles and young adults."*

We continue to reach out to Maryland's youth with a strong message to end drinking and driving. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this report, please do not hesitate to contact me, Mr. John T. Kuo, Administrator, Motor Vehicle Administration at 410 768-7274, or Mr. Neil J. Pedersen, Administrator, State Highway Administration at 410 545-0400, for any additional information.

Sincerely,


John D. Porcari
Secretary

cc: Mr. John T. Kuo, Administrator, Motor Vehicle Administration
Mr. Neil J. Pederson, Administrator, State Highway Administration

The Honorable Thomas V. :Mike'' Miller, Jr.
The Honorable Michael E. Busch
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bcc: Ms. Sarah Albert, Library Associate, Mandated State Agency Reports, Library & Information Services Division, Department of Legislative Services (5 copies – Note: MSAR #1181)
Mr. Joe Bryce, Chief Legislative Officer, Governor's Office
Mr. Jack Cahalan, Director, Office of Public Affairs, Maryland Department of Transportation
Mr. Philip Dacey, Director, Legislative and Regulatory Compliance, Motor Vehicle Administration
Ms. Jaclyn Dixon, Legislative Analyst, Office of Policy Analysis, Department of Legislative Services
Mr. John Favazza, Chief of Staff, Speaker's Office, Maryland General Assembly
Mr. Bruce W. Gartner, Director, Office of Policy and Governmental Affairs, Maryland Department of Transportation
Mr. David Grossman, Budget Analyst, Department of Budget and Management
Ms. Victoria Gruber, Legislative Assistant to the President, Maryland General Assembly
Mr. Martin L. Harris, State Legislative Officer, Maryland Department of Transportation
Mr. Kevin Hughes, Deputy Legislative Officer, Governor's Office
Ms. Roxanne Langford, Manager, Driver & Vehicle Policies & Programs, Driver Education and Licensing, and Administrative Adjudication, MVA
Mr. Jon Martin, Legislative Analyst, Department of Legislative Services
Ms. Linda Singer, Legislative Contact, State Highway Administration
Ms. Beverley Swaim-Staley, Deputy Secretary, Maryland Department of Transportation
Mr. Jeff Tosi, State Legislative Analyst, Maryland Department of Transportation

A Report to the Maryland General Assembly

Regarding

Drunk and Drugged Driving by Juveniles
(Section 2, Chapter 413, Acts of 1990 and
Section 6, Chapter 55, Acts of 1991)

Motor Vehicle Administration
The Maryland Department of Transportation

December 2008

Drunk and Drugged Driving by Juveniles

(Section 2, Chapter 413, Acts of 1990 and Section 6, Chapter 55, Acts of 1991)

This report is written in response to statute within Section 2, Chapter 413, Acts of 1990 and 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 (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 offender;*
3. *Report to the General Assembly annually on these matters; and*
4. *Publicize recent legislative enactment’s 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 statewide 5,477 juveniles were charged in FY 2008. The following chart provides data on the number of juveniles charged under each section of law:

Drunk and Drugged Driving by Juveniles		
Charges and Section of Law	Juveniles Charged FY2008	Juveniles Charged FY2007
Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol, TR §21-902(a)(1)	1,941	2,154
Driving Under the Influence Per Se, TR §21-902(a)(2)	1,344	1,520
Under the Age of 18 Alcohol Restriction, TR §16-113(g)	0	0
Violation of Any Restriction, TR §16-113(h)	2,192	2,421
Total Juvenile Charges	5,477	6,095

* §21-902(b), (c), and (d) was amended in the 2005 Legislative session to §21-902(b)(1) and (2), §21-902(c)(1) and (2), and §21-902(d)(1) and (2). The Motor Vehicle Administration is working with the Administrative Office of the Courts to revise the report to include this statistical data.

** Total reflects available data

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 both the MVA and the State Highway Administration’s (SHA) Maryland

Highway Safety Office, often working in concert with several other State and local agencies and community groups, including:

- Maryland's 1999 Graduated Licensing (TR §§16-501-509) law 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% of whom are juveniles ages 15 - 17) with details on the various laws and their penalties. A strong message against impaired driving is conveyed.
- The MVA driver license handbook details Maryland's drunk driving laws, stressing not to drink and drive. The handbook includes specific information on underage drinking and outlines penalties and sanctions of Maryland's law which prohibits driving with alcohol in the driver's blood (TR §16-113 (b)).
- 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.
- SHA's Maryland Highway Safety Office places a high priority on youthful driving. The program "Its Youth: Responsible Driving Task Force," comprised of some 70 members representing agencies and organizations with an interest or "expertise" in young drivers, meets regularly to implement a comprehensive traffic safety plan for young drivers.
- Working with the Maryland State Police, local law enforcement, substance abuse offices, Maryland Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) and other interested groups throughout the State, MDOT has sponsored statewide and regional forums directed to discourage underage drinking, and drinking and driving. Those initiatives are continuous.
- SHA's Highway Safety Office provides various educational materials regarding drinking and drugged driving to Maryland residents. The materials are distributed through the Regional Safe Communities and the Comprehensive 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 Driver Coalition; Montgomery County's "Drawing the Line on Underage Alcohol Use"; the Washington Regional Alcohol Program; Maryland's Underage Drinking Prevention Coalition; Howard County's "You are Responsible" Program; Baltimore County's SADD-Sponsored "Safe and Sober" Expo; Maryland's Safe Communities' Crash Course on Impaired Driving Workshop; Allegany County's Young Driver Task Force; and Queen Anne and Worcester counties' Reality Program.
- The MVA also supported an innovative drunk driving film, "Branded D.U. I." by the Maryland Administrative Law Judges. The film was produced by and aired on Maryland Public Television (MPT). This film was also distributed to every high school in Maryland. The film showcases 11 teens who were caught drinking and driving; and were interviewed as they underwent the court process of their drunk driving charges. It explores the teens' consequences from the fatalities they caused to their experiences in jail.