



# *Driver's Education Association of Maryland*

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## *Judicial Proceedings Committee TESTIMONY*

*Re: SB0045, Motor Vehicle Administration - Driving Instructors - Criminal History  
Records Checks*

*Christopher Ertel – Driver's Education Association of Maryland (DEAM)*

Senator Zirkin and other distinguished Judicial Proceedings Committee members, I want to thank you for this opportunity to address SB0045.

The Drivers Education Association of Maryland (DEAM) is a statewide network of Professional Driving Schools working together in conjunction with the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) in an effort to provide Driver's Education to new Maryland Drivers as well as remedial education for those drivers who have accrued points as a result of errant driving behavior. We support SB0045 because it will ensure a safe environment for students attending Professional Driving Schools.

Professional Driving Schools serve students as young as 15 years old. Students receive rules of the road training in a classroom setting as well as behind-the-wheel training to prepare for securing a Maryland Driver's License. Certified Driving Instructors provide the classroom education and the behind-the-wheel training.

To qualify as a Certified Driving instructor, individuals must complete a training program as well as provide a State and national criminal history record to the MVA. Fingerprints are used as part of the application for a criminal records check.

Currently, State and national criminal record checks must be submitted to the MVA every two years as part of the criteria to remain a Certified Driving Instructor. As a result, criminal activities may go unreported for long periods of time before being brought to the attention of the MVA.

Senate Bill 45 (SB0045), Entitled: Motor Vehicle Administration - Driving Instructors - Criminal Records Checks, will correct the possibility of unreported criminal activities to the MVA for long periods of time by providing that any updated Driver Instructor Criminal History Record information be transmitted to the MVA immediately by the Criminal Justice Information Central Repository of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional

Services. Through ongoing monitoring of criminal records, the MVA has the opportunity to notify schools quickly of instructors in their employment that could provide an unsafe learning environment for their students.

I respectfully ask that members of the Committee grant SB0045 a favorable report.

Drivers Education Association of Maryland,

Christopher Ertel  
Membership Coordinator/Researcher