

The State of Maryland



Proclamation

From the Governor of the State of Maryland

BUCKLE UP FOR SAFETY MONTH MAY 2026

- WHEREAS,** *Motor vehicle crashes remain a leading cause of preventable death and serious injury, and seat belts are the single most effective protection in a crash; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Wearing a seat belt is a responsibility that protects drivers, passengers, and everyone on Maryland's roads; and*
- WHEREAS,** *More than 100 unbuckled drivers and passengers are killed annually in Maryland; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Deaths as a result of not wearing a seatbelt at the time of a crash are preventable tragedies that impact families, communities, emergency responders, and healthcare systems; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Maryland achieved a seat belt usage rate of over 93 percent in 2025, marking the highest usage rate recorded in the last decade; and*
- WHEREAS,** *The Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration's Highway Safety Office works in partnership with state and local law enforcement to increase seat belt use through education, outreach, and high-visibility enforcement efforts designed to encourage safe driving behaviors and protect all road users; and*
- WHEREAS,** *These coordinated efforts, including participation in the national "Click It or Ticket" campaign, focus on increasing awareness, promoting compliance with seat belt laws, and supporting a culture of shared responsibility for roadway safety; and*
- WHEREAS,** *During Buckle Up for Safety Month, we encourage Marylanders to use seat belts in every seat, every car, every car ride to achieve Maryland's Vision Zero goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and serious injuries by 2030.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WES MOORE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim MAY 2026 as BUCKLE UP FOR SAFETY MONTH in Maryland, and do commend this observation to all of our citizens.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,
this 1st day of May
Two Thousand and twenty-six

[Signature]
Governor

[Signature]
Lt. Governor

[Signature]

Secretary of State