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**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Judiciary
In Support of HB2177
March 3, 2025**

Chair Warren and Committee Members:

Our associations support HB2177. Attempting to elude violations are an intentional decision a driver makes to flee from police posing a high risk to the public, to themselves, and to the officers. Current law has no increase in penalty for repeat offenders. HB2177 proposes to remedy that with the penalty increases on page 2 lines 16-21 and lines 23-28. There is no change to the penalties for violations of subsection (a).

The first circumstance for when the increased penalties on page 2, lines 16-21 apply is for what is described in subsections (b)(1) and (2) on page 1 lines 24-35. As you can see these are the more dangerous incidents of attempting to flee. Subsection (b)(1) applies when the offender commits a violation listed on page 1, lines 26-33 during the act of attempting to elude. Subsection (b)(2) is attempting to elude to escape capture for a felony crime. For these crimes the current penalty is always a SL 9 person felony. The proposal is to retain the current penalty for the first offense, but increase it to a SL7 person felony for the second offense, and to a SL5 person felony for the third or subsequent offense.

The second set of circumstances addressed in this bill is the violation of subsection (b)(3) involving an offender going the wrong way on a divided highway or knowingly going into the opposing lane of traffic causing another vehicle to take evasive action or through an intersection causing another vehicle to take evasive action. The proposal is to retain the current penalty for the first offense, but increase it to a SL6 person felony for the second offense, and to a SL4 person felony for the third or subsequent offense.

Attempt to elude cases create a high risk to the public. It is our belief that those that don't learn from their first or second conviction of these crimes, and continue to violate this law, should be subject to a higher severity level crime.

We urge you to move this bill forward favorably.

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