
By: **Delegates Cardin and Kaiser**

Rules suspended

Introduced and read first time: March 15, 2006

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Transportation - Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee -**
3 **Bicycle-Friendly Communities Program**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee to
5 develop a Bicycle-Friendly Communities Program; requiring the Program to
6 include a certain application process, a system for evaluating a community's
7 eligibility for designation as a bicycle-friendly community, and an award of a
8 certain highway sign; establishing criteria for determining a community's
9 eligibility to be designated as a bicycle-friendly community; requiring the
10 Committee and the State Highway Administration to design, develop, and
11 award a certain highway sign to bicycle-friendly communities; requiring the
12 Committee to submit the Program to the Governor and the General Assembly on
13 or before a certain date; requiring the Committee to report to the Governor and
14 the General Assembly on the progress of designating bicycle-friendly
15 communities annually on or before a certain date; and generally relating to the
16 Bicycle-Friendly Communities Program.

17 BY adding to
18 Article - Transportation
19 Section 2-606(k)
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2001 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

22 Preamble

23 WHEREAS, Promoting bicycle use can improve the quality of the environment
24 by reducing the impact of pollution and noise, limiting greenhouse gases, and
25 improving the quality of public spaces; and

26 WHEREAS, Promoting bicycle use can reduce congestion by shifting short trips,
27 which are the majority of trips in cities, from motor vehicles and will make cities more
28 accessible for mass transit, walking, essential car travel, emergency services, and
29 deliveries; and

1 WHEREAS, Research shows that increasing the number of bicyclists on
2 highways improves bicycle safety; and

3 WHEREAS, Increasing bicycle use broadens opportunities for people of all ages
4 to participate socially and economically in the community; and

5 WHEREAS, Riding bicycles broadens a person's choice of travel modes, which
6 increases independence, especially among senior citizens and children; and

7 WHEREAS, Promoting bicycle use stimulates the economy by creating
8 communities that are attractive for new residents, tourists, and businesses; and

9 WHEREAS, Promoting bicycle use enhances recreational opportunities and
10 contributes to an increased quality of life in the community; and

11 WHEREAS, Promoting bicycle use can save county and municipal funds by
12 increasing the efficient use of public space, reducing the need for costly highway
13 upgrades and improvements, preventing motor vehicle crashes, improving the health
14 of the community, and increasing the use of public transportation; and

15 WHEREAS, Promoting bicycle use can enhance public safety and security by
16 increasing the number of "eyes on the street" and providing more options for
17 movement in the event of an emergency, natural disaster, or a major public event; and

18 WHEREAS, Increasing bicycle use can improve the health and well-being of the
19 community by promoting routine physical activity; now, therefore,

20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
21 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

22 **Article - Transportation**

23 2-606.

24 (K) (1) IN ADDITION TO THE REQUIREMENTS OUTLINED IN SUBSECTION (A)
25 OF THIS SECTION, THE COMMITTEE SHALL DEVELOP A BICYCLE-FRIENDLY
26 COMMUNITIES PROGRAM.

27 (2) THE BICYCLE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES PROGRAM SHALL INCLUDE:

28 (I) A PROCESS FOR A COMMUNITY TO APPLY FOR A DESIGNATION
29 AS A BICYCLE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY;

30 (II) A SYSTEM FOR EVALUATING A COMMUNITY'S ELIGIBILITY FOR
31 A DESIGNATION AS A BICYCLE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY ACCORDING TO CRITERIA
32 ESTABLISHED UNDER PARAGRAPH (4) OF THIS SUBSECTION; AND

33 (III) AN AWARD OF A SPECIALLY DESIGNED HIGHWAY SIGN IN
34 ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (4) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

1 (3) CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING A COMMUNITY'S ELIGIBILITY TO BE
2 DESIGNATED AS A BICYCLE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY SHALL INCLUDE THE
3 COMMUNITY'S ABILITY AND WILLINGNESS TO:

4 (I) ADOPT AND MEET GOALS RELATING TO BICYCLE RIDERSHIP
5 LEVELS AMONG MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY;

6 (II) PROVIDE SAFE AND CONVENIENT BICYCLE ACCESS TO ALL
7 PARTS OF THE COMMUNITY THROUGH A CLEARLY MARKED NETWORK OF:

8 1. BICYCLE LANES ON HIGHWAYS;

9 2. BICYCLE PATHS;

10 3. LOW-SPEED HIGHWAYS; AND

11 4. SECURE PARKING;

12 (III) INCLUDE LOCAL CYCLISTS IN:

13 1. IDENTIFICATION OF MAINTENANCE NEEDS; AND

14 2. UPDATES RELATED TO ONGOING IMPROVEMENTS;

15 (IV) ESTABLISH INFORMATION PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE BICYCLING
16 AND ITS BENEFITS;

17 (V) ENCOURAGE BICYCLE USE BY RESIDENTS AND WORKERS BY
18 PROVIDING ACCESS TO:

19 1. SECURE PARKING;

20 2. SHOWERS;

21 3. LOCKERS; AND

22 4. A FLEET OF COMMUNITY-OWNED BICYCLES;

23 (VI) UPDATE AND IMPLEMENT COMMUNITY POLICIES, PLANS,
24 CODES, AND PROGRAMS IN A MANNER TO CREATE A MORE BICYCLE-FRIENDLY
25 COMMUNITY;

26 (VII) EDUCATE COMMUNITY HIGHWAY USERS ABOUT THE
27 IMPORTANCE OF SHARING HIGHWAYS WITH BICYCLERS IN A SAFE MANNER;

28 (VIII) DESIGN HIGHWAYS AND BICYCLE FACILITIES IN A MANNER TO
29 PROMOTE USE BY BICYCLISTS;

30 (IX) ENFORCE TRAFFIC LAWS TO IMPROVE THE SAFETY AND
31 COMFORT OF ALL HIGHWAY USERS, WITH A PARTICULAR FOCUS ON BICYCLE CRASH
32 PREVENTION;

1 (X) ENCOURAGE BICYCLE USE IN AREAS WHERE:

2 1. SIGNIFICANT SEGMENTS OF THE POPULATION DO NOT
3 DRIVE; AND

4 2. MOTOR VEHICLE TRIPS OF 5 MILES OR LESS ARE MOST
5 COMMON;

6 (XI) PROMOTE INTERMODAL TRAVEL BETWEEN PUBLIC
7 TRANSPORTATION STOPS THROUGH METHODS SUCH AS:

8 1. INSTALLING BICYCLE RACKS ON BUSES;

9 2. IMPROVING PARKING AT MASS TRANSIT PARKING LOTS;
10 AND

11 3. IMPROVING ACCESS FOR BICYCLE RIDERS TO PUBLIC
12 TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES; AND

13 (XII) ESTABLISH A COMMITTEE OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO:

14 1. IMPLEMENT A BICYCLE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY ACTION
15 PLAN; AND

16 2. EVALUATE PROGRESS TOWARD CREATING A
17 BICYCLE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY.

18 (4) THE COMMITTEE AND THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
19 SHALL DESIGN, DEVELOP, AND AWARD TO A BICYCLE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY A
20 HIGHWAY SIGN ANNOUNCING THE COMMUNITY'S STATUS AS A BICYCLE-FRIENDLY
21 COMMUNITY.

22 (5) THE COMMITTEE SHALL REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF
23 DESIGNATING BICYCLE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN
24 ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL
25 ASSEMBLY ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2007, AND ANNUALLY THEREAFTER.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Bicycle and
27 Pedestrian Advisory Committee shall submit a plan for the Bicycle-Friendly
28 Communities Program to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
29 Government Article, the General Assembly on or before July 1, 2007.

30 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
31 July 1, 2006.