

# SB199 – Vehicle Laws – Overtaking and Passing Bicycles

## Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

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Position: Support

Greetings Chairman and Members of the Committee

I am a year-round bike commuter, a bike educator, and a resident of Frederick County. [Frederick Bicycle Coalition](#) represents a broad coalition of recreational, commuter, mountain and adaptive cyclers. Our mission is to work with government, organizations, and individuals to promote greater access for bicyclists and others in the Frederick County area. We have over 1.6K followers on Facebook.

All cyclists enjoy the feeling of getting outside and riding for their health, reducing carbon emissions and commuting to work. They want to reach their destination without having to worry about motorized vehicles driving too close to them. Often times the optimal path to the final destination are narrow roadways, especially in rural areas. And nothing is scarier than a car or truck passing by so close that you could literally reach out and touch them.

[SB199](#) sponsored by Senator Lee is a realistic and common sense legislation. It would legally allow what most safety conscious drivers would do when passing cyclists – with a clear line of sight, move over to the left lane and safely pass the cyclists. Our current legislation does not legally allow drivers to move over to the left lane while in the no-passing zone to safely pass cyclists on narrow roadways.

This legislation will make cyclists feel safer on the roadways and educate drivers about the need to give safe passing distance to cyclists to avoid serious injuries and deaths. The legislation is supported by Governor Hogan's [Task Force on Bicycle Safety on Maryland Highways](#), which I served on in 2017. In 2019, the identical bill was unanimously passed by the House of Delegates.

The Vehicle Laws – Overtaking and Passing Bicycles legislation is something that all cyclists can benefit from and provide clarity for our motorized vehicle users on appropriate safe passing of bicyclists on roadways.