



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Vehicle Laws – Dedicated Bus Lanes – Enforcement HB 284 - FAQ

What will HB 284 do?

- Improve the reliability, speed and frequency quality of MTA bus service by enforcing dedicated bus lane traffic laws
- Allow Baltimore City to implement study recommendations for enforcing existing dedicated bus lanes
- Enable the use of automatic cameras to monitor traffic in dedicated bus lanes
- Enable local jurisdictions to issue civil citations no greater than \$252 to unauthorized vehicles driving in dedicated bus lanes
- Provide means for contesting citations issued by bus lane monitoring cameras

Who Can Use Dedicated Bus Lanes?

- MTA Buses
- School Buses
- Bicycles
- Emergency Vehicles

Why is this Legislation Important?

- Poor bus service is a **barrier to employment**. According to the Regional Plan for Sustainable Development, only about 5% of jobs in the Baltimore region are reachable by transit trips of less than 90 minutes.
- Poor bus service is a **barrier to healthcare access**. Many patients who have chronic illnesses fail to get well because inaccessible or poor transit service makes it hard to travel to the pharmacy for their medicines.
- Poor bus service is a **barrier to education**. 30,000 Baltimore City Public School students depend on the city's public bus service to get to and from school every day. Many children spend 90 minutes or more each way, every day, to get to school. Evidence suggests that these long bus commutes contribute to lateness, absenteeism and even truancy.

Did you Know?

- 30% of Baltimore City residents do not have access to a privately-owned vehicle.
- Baltimore City neighborhoods with insufficient transit access, like Sandtown Winchester also have among the highest rates of unemployment.
- Dedicated bus lanes function in a way that is similar to fixed rail: fewer stops, fewer interruptions or blockages, and therefore reduced travel time and better frequency
- The vast majority of the average American's daily trips are less than 2 miles – to school, work or other activities.
- Better bus service improves sustainability, enables equitable community development, and reduces traffic congestion and air pollution.