

DANA JONES  
Legislative District 30A  
Anne Arundel County

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Appropriations Committee

*Subcommittees*

Vice Chair, Health and Social Services

Oversight Committee on Pensions

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Joint Committee on Administrative,  
Executive, and Legislative Review

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Anne Arundel County Delegation

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President, Women Legislators of Maryland



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony of Delegate Dana Jones  
Before the Environment and Transportation Committee**

**In Support of HB 375  
Bicycles, Play Vehicles, and Unicycles - Authorizations and Requirements  
February 6th 2024, 1:00 pm**

Chair Korman, Vice-Chair Boyce, and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

I come before you today to introduce HB 375, which would help create safer and more consistent transit policies. Last year, this bill passed this Committee unanimously and the House Chamber by a vote of 134-2.

Current Maryland law forbids bicycles on sidewalks as the default statewide. However, localities can and have overridden this law for safety and other reasons. Unfortunately, this has inadvertently created inconsistency throughout Maryland for cyclists. In many areas of our state, roads will switch between state, county, and city roads a number of times leading to confusion for those commuting by bike. If this law was consistent throughout the state, not only would those commuting by bike be safer, but it would also help avoid confusion on which laws to follow when traveling across jurisdictions. All of this, of course, is compounded by the safety issues for bicyclists sharing our major roads with vehicles. This bill advances Maryland's Zero Deaths goals by aligning Maryland code with safe and equitable biking.

HB 375 would amend state law to read that, unless disallowed by local ordinance, a person may ride a bicycle, play vehicle, or unicycle on a sidewalk or sidewalk area - with the caveat that riders shall proceed in a safe manner, yielding to pedestrians.

As many of you may know, localities throughout the state have already enacted similar local bills allowing cyclists on sidewalks: including Montgomery, Howard, and Anne Arundel Counties, as well as the Capital City of Annapolis and numerous other localities around the State.

Implementing this more consistent policy around bicycle usage will add to safety for bikers, help to reduce traffic violence to cyclists, create safe routes to school for our kids & address transportation disparities. It can help ensure that Marylanders have access to a safer, more sustainable, and affordable transportation method.

I respectfully urge a favorable report on this simple, consistent bill for Marylanders.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dana Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Delegate Dana Jones