

Written Testimony for **HB 375: Bicycles, Play Vehicles, and Unicycles - Authorizations and Requirements** - Please **VOTE NO** on this bill.

Dear Environment and Transportation Committee:

This bill reads "...Authorizing a person to ride a bicycle, play vehicle, or unicycle on a sidewalk or sidewalk area unless prohibited by local ordinance; and requiring a person riding a bicycle, play vehicle, or unicycle on a sidewalk or sidewalk area or in or through a crosswalk to yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian or a person using an electric personal assistive mobility device..."

"...a person has the rights and is subject to the restrictions applicable to **pedestrians** under this title while the person is lawfully operating a bicycle, play vehicle, or unicycle: On a sidewalk or sidewalk area; or In or through a crosswalk. At an intersection, a person operating a bicycle, play vehicle, or unicycle **is subject to all traffic control signals**, as provided in §§ 21–202 and 21–203 of this title. A PERSON OPERATING A BICYCLE, PLAY VEHICLE, OR UNICYCLE ON A SIDEWALK OR SIDEWALK AREA OR IN OR THROUGH A CROSSWALK SHALL YIELD THE RIGHT–OF–WAY TO A PEDESTRIAN OR A PERSON RIDING ON AN ELECTRIC PERSONAL ASSISTIVE MOBILITY DEVICE..."

This bill would pose an immediate danger to all motorists and bicycle operators in Maryland. I understand that the bill is worded that the bicycled operator must "yield the right of way to a pedestrian or a person riding an electric personal assistive mobility device...", but let's truly think about this for a minute. Bicycles have wheels and are moving vehicles. The same motor vehicle laws should apply to bicycle operators as they do to motor vehicles, not pedestrians, since they are both moving vehicles. So **bicycles should STOP** at all traffic control signals, just like any other motor vehicle has to do. Why should bicycles not stop at a traffic control signal? **Are** bicycle operators, lots of them being **minor children, going to have to take a motor vehicle driving course** that they have to pass so that they know these NEW traffic laws to which they must abide? There is no mention of that in this bill. And I can certainly see instances where bicycle operators, some being **minor children, are not going to remember to "yield the right of way** to any "...pedestrian or a person riding an electric personal assistive mobility device..." . This will pose an immediate danger to motor vehicle drivers and to bicycle operators!!

I'm afraid that this bill will put our motor vehicle drivers and bicycle operators, especially our minor children, at a much greater risk and immediate dangers of motor vehicle accidents involving bicycles. I do not see a good outcome if this bill is passed into law.

Please **VOTE NO** on this bill and show all our motor vehicle drivers and bicycle operators that you care about their safety first and foremost.

Thank you.

Trudy Tibbals

A Very Concerned Mother of 3 and Maryland resident