

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2023 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

House Bill 1289 (Delegate Stein)  
Environment and Transportation

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Vehicle Laws - Bicycles - Operation at Intersections

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This bill authorizes a person operating a bicycle, when approaching a stop sign at an intersection with a highway that has two or fewer lanes for moving traffic, to cautiously make a turn or proceed through the intersection without stopping if the person (1) reduces the speed of the bicycle to a reasonable rate and (2) yields the right-of-way to any vehicle in the intersection or any approaching vehicle on another highway that is near enough to the intersection to pose an immediate danger. The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The bill does not materially affect State government operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** The bill does not materially affect local government operations or finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** A “bicycle” is a vehicle that (1) is designed to be operated by human power; (2) has 2 or 3 wheels, with 1 being more than 14 inches in diameter; and (3) has a drive mechanism other than pedals directly attached to a drive wheel. In general, the term includes an electric bicycle, a moped, and an electric low-speed scooter.

The Maryland Vehicle Law specifies that every person operating a bicycle in a public bicycle area has all the rights granted to and is subject to all the duties required of the driver of a vehicle, except for rules of the road that by their very nature cannot apply or as

otherwise provided in Title 21, Subtitle 12 of the Transportation Article. Additionally, a person who is lawfully operating a bicycle on a sidewalk or sidewalk area or in or through a crosswalk generally has the same rights and restrictions applicable to pedestrians under the vehicle law.

Unless otherwise directed by a police officer or traffic control signal, the driver of a vehicle (including the operator of a bicycle) approaching a stop sign at an intersection must stop at the near side of the intersection at a clearly marked stop line. If there is no clearly marked stop line, the driver must stop before entering any crosswalk; if there is no crosswalk, the driver must stop at the nearest point before entering the intersection that gives the driver a view of traffic approaching on the intersecting roadway.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Allegany and Montgomery counties; Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Department of State Police; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 10, 2023  
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