

SENATE BILL 826

R5
HB 1289/23 – ENT

4r3361
CF HB 511

By: **Senator Smith**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2024

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – Bicycles – Operation at Intersections**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing a person operating a bicycle that is approaching a stop sign
4 at an intersection on certain highways to cautiously make a turn or proceed through
5 the intersection without stopping if the person reduces the speed of the bicycle to a
6 reasonable rate and yields the right-of-way to certain vehicles under certain
7 circumstances; and generally relating to the operation of bicycles on highways.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Transportation
10 Section 21–707 and 21–1202
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
14 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article – Transportation**

16 21–707.

17 (a) [Unless] **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C–1) OF THIS SECTION,**
18 **AND UNLESS** otherwise directed by a police officer or traffic control signal, the driver of a
19 vehicle approaching a stop sign at an intersection shall stop at the near side of the
20 intersection at a clearly marked stop line.

21 (b) [Unless] **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C–1) OF THIS SECTION,**
22 **AND UNLESS** otherwise directed by a police officer or traffic control signal, the driver of a
23 vehicle approaching a stop sign at an intersection shall stop at the near side of the
24 intersection and, if there is no clearly marked stop line, before entering any crosswalk.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (c) [Unless] **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C-1) OF THIS SECTION,**
 2 **AND UNLESS** otherwise directed by a police officer or traffic control signal, the driver of a
 3 vehicle approaching a stop sign at an intersection shall stop at the near side of an
 4 intersection and, if there is no crosswalk, at the nearest point before entering the
 5 intersection that gives the driver a view of traffic approaching on the intersecting roadway.

6 **(C-1) WHEN APPROACHING A STOP SIGN AT AN INTERSECTION WITH A**
 7 **HIGHWAY WITH TWO OR FEWER LANES FOR MOVING TRAFFIC, A PERSON OPERATING**
 8 **A BICYCLE MAY CAUTIOUSLY MAKE A TURN OR PROCEED THROUGH THE**
 9 **INTERSECTION WITHOUT STOPPING IF THE PERSON OPERATING THE BICYCLE:**

10 **(1) REDUCES THE SPEED OF THE BICYCLE TO A REASONABLE RATE;**
 11 **AND**

12 **(2) YIELDS THE RIGHT-OF-WAY TO:**

13 **(I) ANY VEHICLE IN THE INTERSECTION; AND**

14 **(II) ANY APPROACHING VEHICLE ON ANOTHER HIGHWAY THAT**
 15 **IS NEAR ENOUGH TO THE INTERSECTION THAT IT POSES AN IMMEDIATE DANGER.**

16 (d) The driver of a vehicle approaching a yield sign at an intersection, if required
 17 for safety to stop, shall stop at the near side of the intersection at a clearly marked stop
 18 line.

19 (e) The driver of a vehicle approaching a yield sign at an intersection, if required
 20 for safety to stop, shall stop at the near side of the intersection and, if there is no clearly
 21 marked stop line, before entering any crosswalk.

22 (f) The driver of a vehicle approaching a yield sign at an intersection, if required
 23 for safety to stop, shall stop at the near side of the intersection and, if there is no crosswalk,
 24 at the nearest point before entering the intersection that gives the driver a view of traffic
 25 approaching on the intersecting roadway.

26 21-1202.

27 (a) Every person operating a bicycle or a motor scooter in a public bicycle area
 28 has all the rights granted to and is subject to all the duties required of the driver of a vehicle
 29 by this title, including the duties set forth in § 21-504 of this title, except:

30 (1) As otherwise provided in this subtitle; and

31 (2) For those provisions of this title that by their very nature cannot apply.

32 (b) (1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection, a person has the

1 rights and is subject to the restrictions applicable to pedestrians under this title while the
2 person is lawfully operating a bicycle, play vehicle, or unicycle:

3 (i) On a sidewalk or sidewalk area; or

4 (ii) In or through a crosswalk.

5 (2) At an intersection, a person operating a bicycle, play vehicle, or unicycle
6 is subject to all traffic control signals, as provided in §§ 21–202 and 21–203 of this title.

7 (3) Section 21–506 of this title does not apply to a person operating a
8 bicycle, play vehicle, or unicycle.

9 (C) **NOTWITHSTANDING § 21–707(A) THROUGH (C) OF THIS TITLE, WHEN**
10 **APPROACHING A STOP SIGN AT AN INTERSECTION WITH A HIGHWAY WITH TWO OR**
11 **FEWER LANES FOR MOVING TRAFFIC, A PERSON OPERATING A BICYCLE MAY**
12 **CAUTIOUSLY MAKE A TURN OR PROCEED THROUGH THE INTERSECTION WITHOUT**
13 **STOPPING IF THE PERSON OPERATING THE BICYCLE:**

14 (1) **REDUCES THE SPEED OF THE BICYCLE TO A REASONABLE RATE;**
15 **AND**

16 (2) **YIELDS THE RIGHT–OF–WAY TO:**

17 (I) **ANY VEHICLE IN THE INTERSECTION; AND**

18 (II) **ANY APPROACHING VEHICLE ON ANOTHER HIGHWAY THAT**
19 **IS NEAR ENOUGH TO THE INTERSECTION THAT IT POSES AN IMMEDIATE DANGER.**

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
21 October 1, 2024.