

HOUSE BILL 1504

R1
HB 628/25 – ENT

6lr2124

By: ~~Delegate Healey~~ Delegates Healey, Allen, Anderson, Baker, Behler, Boyce, Foley, Fraser-Hidalgo, Grammer, Guyton, Holmes, Jacobs, Korman, Lewis, J. Long, T. Morgan, Nawrocki, Odom, Stein, and Ziegler

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2026
Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
House action: Adopted
Read second time: March 9, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Highways – Sidewalks and Bicycle Pathways – Construction and**
3 **Reconstruction**
4 **(The Honorable Anne Healey Pedestrian Safety Act of 2026)**

5 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Highway Administration to prioritize certain
6 funding for the construction and reconstruction of sidewalks and bicycle pathways
7 to sidewalks and bicycle pathways that are, or are adjacent to highways that are,
8 subject to a complete streets policy or another similar Vision Zero program; requiring
9 a local government to request certain funding from the Department of
10 Transportation in a certain manner; authorizing certain State funding for the
11 construction or reconstruction of sidewalks or bicycle pathways under certain
12 circumstances; and generally relating to the construction and reconstruction of
13 sidewalks and bicycle pathways.

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
15 Article – Transportation
16 Section 8–630
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



Article – Transportation

1
2 8–630.

3 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

4 (2) “Municipal corporation” means a municipality as defined in § 1–101 of
5 the Local Government Article.

6 (3) “Urban highway” means a highway, other than an expressway, that is:

7 (i) 1. Constructed with a curb and gutter and an enclosed type
8 storm drainage system;

9 2. Located in an urban area and on which is located a public
10 facility that creates appreciable pedestrian traffic along the highway from adjacent areas;

11 3. Located within urban boundaries as defined by the U.S.
12 Census Bureau; or

13 4. Located within the boundaries of a municipal corporation;
14 and

15 (ii) Part of the State highway system.

16 (b) (1) Sidewalks shall be constructed at the time of construction or
17 reconstruction of an urban highway, or in response to the request of a local government
18 unless:

19 (i) The Administration determines that the cost or impacts of
20 constructing the sidewalks would be too great in relation to the need for them or their
21 probable use; or

22 (ii) The local government indicates that there is no need for
23 sidewalks.

24 (2) Sidewalks constructed under this section shall be consistent with area
25 master plans and transportation plans adopted by the local planning commission.

26 (c) (1) If sidewalks or bicycle pathways are constructed or reconstructed as
27 part of a roadway construction or reconstruction project, the Administration shall fund the
28 sidewalk or bicycle pathway construction or reconstruction as a part of the cost of the
29 roadway project.

30 (2) Except as provided in paragraphs (3) and (4) of this subsection, if
31 sidewalks or bicycle pathways are constructed or reconstructed in response to a request
32 from a local government **IN ITS ANNUAL PRIORITY LETTER FOR THE DEPARTMENT’S**

1 **CONSIDERATION FOR INCLUSION IN THE CONSOLIDATED TRANSPORTATION**
2 **PROGRAM UNDER § 2-103.1 OF THIS ARTICLE** and the adjacent roadway is not being
3 concurrently constructed or reconstructed, the cost to construct or reconstruct the sidewalk
4 or bicycle pathway shall be shared equally between the State and local governments.

5 (3) If sidewalks or bicycle pathways within a sustainable community as
6 defined in § 6-301 of the Housing and Community Development Article are constructed or
7 reconstructed in response to a request from a local government **IN ITS ANNUAL PRIORITY**
8 **LETTER FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S CONSIDERATION FOR INCLUSION IN THE**
9 **CONSOLIDATED TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM UNDER § 2-103.1 OF THIS ARTICLE**
10 and the adjacent roadway is not being concurrently constructed or reconstructed, the cost
11 to construct or reconstruct the sidewalk or bicycle pathway may be funded entirely by the
12 State.

13 (4) (i) This paragraph does not apply to a priority funding area that is
14 a sustainable community as defined in § 6-301 of the Housing and Community
15 Development Article.

16 (ii) ~~IN DETERMINING FUNDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND~~
17 ~~RECONSTRUCTION OF SIDEWALKS AND BICYCLE PATHWAYS UNDER THIS~~
18 ~~PARAGRAPH FROM THE FUNDING PROGRAMMED FOR SIDEWALKS AND BICYCLE~~
19 ~~PATHWAYS BY THE DEPARTMENT IN THE CONSOLIDATED TRANSPORTATION~~
20 ~~PROGRAM UNDER § 2-103.1 OF THIS ARTICLE, THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL~~
21 ~~PRIORITIZE FUNDING FOR SIDEWALKS AND BICYCLE PATHWAYS THAT ARE, OR ARE~~
22 ~~ADJACENT TO HIGHWAYS THAT ARE, SUBJECT TO:~~

23 1. A COMPLETE STREETS POLICY, AS DEFINED IN §
24 2-112 OF THIS ARTICLE; OR

25 2. ANOTHER SIMILAR VISION ZERO PROGRAM UNDER
26 SUBTITLE 10 OF THIS TITLE.

27 (iii) If sidewalks or bicycle pathways within an area designated as a
28 priority funding area under § 5-7B-02 of the State Finance and Procurement Article are
29 constructed or reconstructed in response to a request from a local government **IN ITS**
30 **ANNUAL PRIORITY LETTER FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S CONSIDERATION FOR**
31 **INCLUSION IN THE CONSOLIDATED TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM UNDER § 2-103.1**
32 **OF THIS ARTICLE** and the adjacent roadway is not being concurrently constructed or
33 reconstructed, and if the Administration determines that construction would not occur
34 under this section due to insufficient contribution of funds by the local government, the cost
35 to construct or reconstruct the sidewalk or bicycle pathway shall be shared between the
36 State and local government as follows:

37 1. 75 percent of the cost shall be funded by the State; and

1 (f) The Administration shall maintain and repair all facilities for nighttime
2 illumination that:

3 (1) Are constructed by the Administration for the safe conduct of vehicular
4 traffic; and

5 (2) Exist adjacent to urban highways.

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
7 October 1, 2026.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.