

HOUSE BILL 1567

R5

6lr2997

By: ~~Delegate Odom~~ **Delegates Odom and Boyce**

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 6, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – Bicycles, Motor Scooters, and EPAMDs – ~~Overtaking and Passing~~**
3 **Audible Warnings**
4 **(Pass Pedestrians Safely Act)**

5 FOR the purpose of authorizing a person to operate an electric personal assistive mobility
6 device (EPAMD) that is equipped with certain audible devices; ~~requiring an operator~~
7 ~~of a bicycle, a motor scooter, or an EPAMD to exercise due care to avoid a collision~~
8 ~~with another vehicle or a pedestrian and maintain a certain distance, if practicable,~~
9 ~~when passing a vehicle or pedestrian;~~ requiring an operator of a bicycle, a motor
10 scooter, or an EPAMD to give a certain audible warning before passing a pedestrian;
11 establishing that a violation of the ~~distance or~~ audible warning requirements
12 requirement is a secondary offense subject to a certain civil penalty; and generally
13 relating to ~~overtaking and passing~~ audible warning requirements for operators of
14 bicycles, motor scooters, and EPAMDs.

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
16 Article – Transportation
17 Section 21–1207
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

20 BY adding to
21 Article – Transportation
22 Section 21–1209.1
23 Annotated Code of Maryland

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.



(2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

Article – Transportation

21–1207.

(a) (1) If a bicycle or a motor scooter is used on a highway at any time when, due to insufficient light or unfavorable atmospheric conditions, persons and vehicles on the highway are not clearly discernible at a distance of 1,000 feet, the bicycle or motor scooter shall be equipped:

(i) On the front, with a lamp that emits a white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front; and

(ii) On the rear, with a red reflector of a type approved by the Administration and visible from all distances from 600 feet to 100 feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful upper beams of head lamps on a motor vehicle.

(2) A bicycle or bicyclist may be equipped with a functioning lamp that acts as a reflector and emits a red light or a flashing amber light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear instead of or in addition to the red reflector required by paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(b) Subject to subsection (c) of this section, a person may operate a bicycle [or], a motor scooter, **OR AN EPAMD** that is equipped with a bell, **HORN**, or other device capable of giving a signal audible for a distance of at least 100 feet.

(c) A bicycle [or], **A motor scooter, OR AN EPAMD** may not be equipped with nor may any person use on a bicycle, **A MOTOR SCOOTER, OR AN EPAMD** any siren or whistle.

(d) Every bicycle and motor scooter shall be equipped with a braking system capable of stopping from a speed of 10 miles per hour within 15 feet on dry, level, clean pavement.

21–1209.1.

~~(A) A PERSON OPERATING A BICYCLE, A MOTOR SCOOTER, OR AN EPAMD SHALL:~~

~~(1) EXERCISE DUE CARE TO AVOID COLLIDING WITH A VEHICLE OR PEDESTRIAN; AND~~

1 ~~(2) WHEN OVERTAKING AND PASSING A VEHICLE OR PEDESTRIAN, IF~~
2 ~~PRACTICABLE, PASS SAFELY AT A DISTANCE OF NOT LESS THAN 3 FEET.~~

3 **(B)** AN OPERATOR OF A BICYCLE, A MOTOR SCOOTER, OR AN EPAMD
4 SHALL GIVE AN AUDIBLE WARNING BY VOICE OR BELL, HORN, OR OTHER DEVICE
5 BEFORE OVERTAKING AND PASSING A PEDESTRIAN.

6 ~~(C)~~ **(B)** **(1)** A POLICE OFFICER MAY ENFORCE THIS SECTION ONLY AS A
7 SECONDARY ACTION WHEN THE POLICE OFFICER DETAINS A PERSON OPERATING A
8 BICYCLE, A MOTOR SCOOTER, OR AN EPAMD FOR A SUSPECTED VIOLATION OF
9 ANOTHER PROVISION OF THE CODE.

10 **(2)** A PERSON WHO IS FOUND LIABLE FOR A VIOLATION OF THIS
11 SECTION IS SUBJECT TO A CIVIL PENALTY OF \$25.

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

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.