

**Subject:** Support for HB 557

**To:** House Environment and Transportation Committee

**From:** Dezman Jackson

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Please support HB 557, a bill that will provide information to blind pedestrians so that they can communicate with companies that offer electric low speed scooters (e-scooters) as a method of transportation.

I am active in the community and frequently travel throughout the streets of Baltimore. I also teach orientation and mobility to blind people, which is using a cane to travel. As their instructor, I travel with them to many places. My students and I frequently encounter e-scooters.

Blind people need access to the website and phone app to communicate with e-scooter companies. We need to inform them when one of their scooters is impeding our ability to enter a building, get to the curb to cross the street, and other points of access. Frequently scooters fall over and are laying on the sidewalk. If we cannot read the information on the scooter, then we don't know which company to contact. If we cannot fill the complaint form out on the website or use the phone app, we cannot provide information to the company. I deserve the same access to information that sighted pedestrians have. Blind people also have the right to use the streets just as all other citizens have.

Please vote in favor of HB 557 to protect the rights of blind people and all pedestrians.