

HB0137: Support

Thank you to Delegate Carr for this bill. I am honestly surprised that Maryland does not have a “don’t block the box” law.

Blocking the box creates unnecessarily dangerous conditions for pedestrians and bicyclists, as well as motorists. Gridlock frustrates drivers, who feel angry that their passage is blocked, and will look for ways to get around the traffic in the box that is blocking them. In doing so, they can be aggressive and not be on the lookout for more vulnerable road users who are using crosswalks or bike lanes. For those inside a car, there can be property damage, but for those without a protective steel coating, the consequences can be deadly.

I ask the committee to issue a favorable report on this bill, so that we can revisit this in future years to make this stronger; for instance, we should allow automated enforcement of these infractions at all intersections, not just those with signs.

Thank you, and again, I look forward to a favorable report.

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