



## MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate Kumar P. Barve, Chair  
Delegate Dana Stein, Vice Chair  
Environment and Transportation Committee Members  
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus (MLLC)  
DATE: 03/24/2022  
RE: HB1153 Vehicle Laws – Bicycles, Play Vehicles, and Unicycles –  
Riding on Sidewalks

### **The MLLC supports HB1153 Vehicle Laws – Bicycles, Play Vehicles, and Unicycles – Riding on Sidewalks**

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a crucial voice in the development of public policy that uplifts the Latino community and benefits the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB1153.

Approximately 921,900 immigrants live in Maryland, that is 15 percent of the total population.<sup>1</sup> The U.S. Census Bureau predicts that the numbers will rise in coming decades, with a large fraction coming from Latin America. Many immigrants will arrive in the U.S. with few resources, relying on public transit, bicycling, and walking to travel. It is critical for transportation planners and policy makers to understand the unique needs and constraints that immigrants face, in order to provide safe and appropriate transportation services. Unfortunately, according to the CDC, the pedestrian death rate increased from 1.7 per 100,000 in 2009 to 2.2 in 2018. This increase was seen in each racial/ethnic group, but is particularly pronounced among Latinos, increasing from 2.4 to 2.9. The 2018 death rate among Latinos, 2.9, is significantly higher than the death rate for whites, 1.8.

This bill advances Maryland's Vision Zero goals by aligning Maryland code with safe and equitable biking. It will connect low income neighborhoods to places of employment and schools expanding opportunities for residents across the state. This will be achieved by authorizing a person to ride a bicycle, play vehicle, or unicycle on a sidewalk or sidewalk area unless prohibited by local ordinance. Implementing this more consistent policy around bicycle usage will add to safety for bikers, help to reduce traffic violence to cyclists, create safe routes to school for our kids & address transportation disparities. It will help ensure that Marylanders have access to a safer, more sustainable, and affordable transportation method.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB1153.

1. <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/MD>