



TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

SB 874 State Highway Administration – Pedestrian and Bicycle Fatalities – Infrastructure Review (Vision Zero Implementation Act of 2022)

POSITION: Support

BY: Nancy Soreng, LWVMD President

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The League of Women Voters of Maryland (LWVMD) supports proposed legislation SB 874. LWVMD believes that the state of Maryland should help promote safe pedestrian and bicycle activities and a good way to do this is by monitoring and rectifying problems on state highways for pedestrians and bicyclists. There are too many deaths across the state in urban, suburban, and rural situations.

Both individuals and agencies are well intentioned in promoting safety. This bill helps provide a framework and criteria for assessing why fatalities occur for pedestrians and bicyclists, then develops ways to rectify hazardous situations. We have positions that state government agencies should provide frameworks that help jurisdictions and localities in addressing needs. Safety is a critical need.

If we are to advocate for all travel modes, they must be safe. LWVMD's guidelines encourage individuals to conserve natural resources and reduce energy consumption, so the use of bicycles and modes of travel that involve pedestrians should be safe. No one wants fatalities on roads to occur. There should be guidelines for analysis after reporting and rectifying a situation within a specific time period with all information that is gathered made transparent, public, and readily available for everyone to see.

SB 874 provides ten ways to make a state highway and possible corresponding intersections safer after identifying its deficiencies. The public deserves a safer environment for pedestrians and bicyclists.

LWVMD urges a favorable report on SB 874.