



Kim Coble
Executive Director

2024 Board of
Directors

Lynn Heller, Chair
The Hon. Nancy Kopp,
Treasurer
Kimberly Armstrong
Candace Dodson-Reed
Verna Harrison
Melanie Hartwig-Davis
Charles Hernick
The Hon. Steve Lafferty
Patrick Miller
Bonnie L. Norman
Katherine (Kitty)
Thomas

February 6, 2024

SUPPORT: HB156 - Transportation - Electric Bicycle Rebate and Voucher Program - Establishment

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Maryland LCV supports **HB156 - Transportation - Electric Bicycle Rebate and Voucher Program - Establishment**, and we are grateful for Delegate Lewis' leadership for introducing this bill to incentivize and support alternative electric transportation options.

Electric bikes represent an important opportunity for added equity in the transportation sector. As our nation transitions to zero-emissions vehicles, active mobility solutions like electric bicycles are an important part of the equation. Electric bicycles are convenient and significantly more affordable than the least expensive electric car models available.

Maryland's transportation sector contributes to over a third of the state's total greenhouse gas emissions. The widespread adoption of electric bicycles presents an opportunity to alleviate both traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions. Acknowledging that electric bicycles come with a higher price tag compared to traditional bicycles, we appreciate the prioritizations of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients. The proposed Electric Bicycle Rebate and Voucher Program would play a crucial role in promoting increased electric bicycle adoption. This initiative recognizes the value of electric bicycles in supporting alternative transportation options across the state.

In 2021 Denver, Colorado offered a rebate program for electric bicycles, which was hugely popular. People who took advantage of the program reported replacing an average of 3.4 car trips each week. In a country where 52% of car trips are reported to be only three miles or less¹, electric bicycles offer an important solution to reducing overall car traffic and the harmful emissions they produce.

Maryland LCV sees HB156 as an integral piece of comprehensive transportation solutions that will continue to make Maryland a leader in reducing climate emissions and improving the overall quality of life for all residents.

Maryland LCV urges a favorable report on this bill.

¹ <https://www.energy.gov/eere/vehicles/articles/fotw-1230-march-21-2022-more-half-all-daily-trips-were-less-three-miles-2021>