

# SB 826: Vehicle Laws - Bicycles - Operation at Intersections - FAVORABLE

February 28th, 2024

Chair Smith and Committee Members,

I support SB 826 which provides a proven safety enhancement to all road users at intersections.

As a utilitarian bicyclist, using the bicycle as transportation to the store and work, I generally choose smaller, less traveled roads when the option exists, and thus encounter stops much more frequently. Not only would this bill make bicycling safer at intersections, it would make it more efficient.

Studies have shown that after the implementation of similar laws in other states, bicycle crashes involving bicycles at intersections have dropped 14.5% in Idaho after one year (Meggs, 2010) and decreased 23% in Delaware 30 months after the Governor's signing (Bike Delaware Inc.).

This bill continues to require bicyclists to slow down, inspect the intersection, and continue to yield right-of-way to other vehicles in the intersection. What changes is a bicyclist's ability to remain on the pedals, maintain balance at a walking-like pace, and approach the intersection using all their senses (easily hearing and seeing other vehicles even before approaching intersections as opposed to drivers inside enclosed motor vehicles insulated by windows and blind spots) and then safely proceed through the intersection without a full stop. The bicyclist will be able to quickly and confidently accelerate through the intersection quickly (rather than wobble, or worse, slip off a pedal when trying to start up from a stop). SB 826 improves the safety of bicyclists by reducing the bicyclists time within the intersection.

I urge a favorable SB 826 committee report and Senate floor vote.

Thank you,

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