

Written Testimony for **HB 007: Vehicle Laws - Bicycles - Operation at Intersections** - Please **VOTE NO** on this bill.

Dear Environment and Transportation Committee:

This bill reads "... Authorizing a person operating a bicycle that is approaching a stop sign at an intersection on a highway with two or fewer lanes for moving traffic to cautiously make a turn or proceed through the intersection **without stopping** if the person reduces the speed of the bicycle to a reasonable rate and yields the right-of-way to any vehicle in the intersection or any approaching vehicle on another highway that is near enough to the intersection to pose an immediate danger..."

This bill would pose an immediate danger to all motorists and bicycle operators in Maryland. I understand that the bill is worded that the bicycled operator must "reduce their speed to a reasonable rate" and "yield the right of way to any vehicle in the intersection or any approaching vehicle on another highway that is near enough to the intersection to pose an immediate danger", but let's truly think about this for a minute. Bicycles have wheels and are moving vehicles. The same motor vehicle laws should apply to them both, since they are both moving vehicles. So **bicycles should STOP** at a stop sign, just like any other motor vehicle has to do. Why should bicycles not stop at a stop sign but at a traffic light? Also, what is a **reasonable speed**? It is not defined, and all bicycle operators are going to have different interpretations as to what a "reasonable speed" is. This is dangerous to both other motorists as well as the bicycle operators. **Are** bicycle operators, lots of them being **minor children, going to have to take a motor vehicle driving course** that they have to pass so that they know these NEW traffic laws to which they must abide? There is no mention of that in this bill. And I can certainly see instances where bicycle operators, some being **minor children, are not going to remember to "yield the right of way** to any approaching vehicle on **another highway** that is near enough to the intersection to pose an immediate danger". This will pose an immediate danger to motor vehicle drivers and to bicycle operators!!

I'm afraid that this bill will put our motor vehicle drivers and bicycle operators, especially our minor children, at a much greater risk and immediate dangers of motor vehicle accidents involving bicycles. I do not see a good outcome if this bill is passed into law.

Please **VOTE NO** on this bill and show all our motor vehicle drivers and bicycle operators that you care about their safety first and foremost.

Thank you.

Trudy Tibbals

A Very Concerned Mother and Maryland resident