



Bill: HB 178- Vehicle Laws - Stopping, Standing, or Parking in a Bike Lane or Bicycle Path - Prohibition

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Bike Maryland, an organization representing thousands of cyclists across the state, we write to express our support for HB 178. This legislation is a crucial step toward improving safety for bicyclists and all road users in Maryland.

Bicycle safety is a pressing concern in Maryland. Many cyclists face significant risks due to inadequate infrastructure, lack of awareness among drivers, and insufficient enforcement of existing laws. HB 178 provides an opportunity to address these challenges by:

1. The bill aligns with MD's commitment to Vision Zero and Complete Streets that increases the safety for all users. Keeping bike lanes clear avoids the need for bicyclists to dart/weave in and out of the travel lanes which is dangerous and increases congestion
2. Enhancing Traffic Laws: Strengthening laws that protect bicyclists and ensuring they are enforced will encourage safer interactions between drivers and cyclists.
3. Reducing Bicycle-Related Injuries and Fatalities: By prioritizing safety measures, HB 178 will help prevent tragic crash injuries and deaths of vulnerable road users and make cycling a safer option for Maryland residents.

The benefits of improved bicycle safety extend beyond the cycling community. Safer roads encourage more people to choose biking as a mode of transportation, leading to reduced traffic congestion and healthier lifestyles for Marylanders.

We urge the committee to support this legislation. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at chair@bikemd.org.

Sincerely,

Peter Gray
Bike Maryland
Chair, Board of Directors