

Written Testimony for **HB 422: Vehicle Laws - Bicycles, Play Vehicles, and Unicycles - Crosswalks** - Please **VOTE NO** on this bill.

Dear Environment and Transportation Committee:

This bill reads "...Authorizing a person operating a bicycle, play vehicle, or unicycle at an intersection who is facing a red signal to enter the intersection to cross the highway in the direction of a pedestrian control "walk" signal; and requiring, before entering an intersection, a person operating a bicycle, play vehicle, or unicycle to yield the right-of-way to any vehicle or pedestrian lawfully using the intersection..."

"...UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED BY A TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE, A PERSON OPERATING A BICYCLE, PLAY VEHICLE, OR UNICYCLE AT AN INTERSECTION WHO IS FACING A **RED** SIGNAL MAY ENTER THE INTERSECTION TO CROSS THE HIGHWAY IN THE DIRECTION OF A PEDESTRIAN CONTROL "WALK" SIGNAL. BEFORE ENTERING AN INTERSECTION AS DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A PERSON OPERATING A BICYCLE, PLAY VEHICLE, OR UNICYCLE SHALL YIELD THE RIGHT-OF-WAY TO ANY VEHICLE OR PEDESTRIAN LAWFULLY USING THE INTERSECTION..."

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 "yield the right of way to "any vehicle or pedestrian lawfully using the intersection...", 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 bicycle operators as they do to motor vehicles, since they are both moving vehicles. So **bicycles should STOP** at all **red** traffic control signals, just like any other motor vehicle has to do. Why should bicycles not stop at a traffic control signal? **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 "...vehicle or pedestrian lawfully using the intersection...". 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 of 3 and Maryland resident