



HB182 – Graduated Speed Fines - Safety for Vulnerable Road Users

House Environment & Transportation Committee

February 21, 2025

Position: Favorable

Greetings Chair and Members of the Committee

Our mission is to promote bicycling, increase safety, improve conditions, and provide a voice for bicyclists in Maryland. We partner with advocacy organizations to promote vulnerable road user safety legislation on the state and county level and work with government agencies, including police departments, to develop policy and awareness campaigns that protect the rights and well-being of bicyclists and pedestrians in Maryland. We the undersigned represent multiple community-based organizations advocating for safe biking, walking and active transportation, submit this testimony on behalf of tens of thousands of members across the State of Maryland.

As bicycling has increased in popularity across the United States and provides many environmental, economic, and health benefits, there is a need for creating a safe transportation system which makes people the priority; using all available tools to help achieve zero injuries and fatalities on our roadways and allowing all people to get to their destinations safely. HB182 will help with this effort by reducing speeding.

This bill will deter people from speeding thereby reducing both the likelihood and severity of crashes. This is especially important for vulnerable road users such as pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists, the elderly, people with disabilities, emergency responders and schoolchildren who may cross or travel along our roads to access schools, parks, shopping areas and other destinations. This bill also aligns with Maryland's commitment to Vision Zero. 2024 was another bad year for Maryland crashes and fatalities, especially for pedestrians and cyclists. Maryland had over 570 road fatalities in 2024 and more than 40% were vulnerable road users.

Speed reduction reduces both the likelihood of a crash and the severity of injury if a crash occurs. We request that the committee support the passage of HB182.

Baltimore Bicycling Club (BBC)

Bicycle Advocates for Annapolis & Anne Arundel County (BikeAAA)

Bike Maryland

Bikemore

Bike HoCo

Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA)