

JULIE PALAKOVICH CARR
Legislative District 17
Montgomery County

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Ways and Means Committee

Chair, Early Childhood Subcommittee

Chair, Montgomery County
House Delegation



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 202
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3037
800-492-7122 Ext. 3037
Julie.PalakovichCarr@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of HB 422
Vehicle Laws - Bicycles, Play Vehicles, and Unicycles - Crosswalks

This bill aims to enhance roadway safety for bicyclists, in keeping with our State's goal of Vision Zero—to eliminate fatalities and serious injuries on our roadways.

HB 422 would allow bicyclists who are riding on the road or in a bike lane to proceed through an intersection when the parallel pedestrian signal changes to "walk." Current state law allows bicyclists who are riding on a sidewalk to proceed through an intersection when a pedestrian signal changes to "walk," even when the traffic light is still red. However a bicyclist who is riding in a bike lane or on the road cannot proceed under current state law until they have a green light, regardless of the pedestrian signal.

Roughly one in three crashes in Maryland involving a bicyclist happen at an intersection.¹

This legislation would only apply at intersections that have a leading pedestrian interval for sidewalk users. Leading pedestrian intervals generally give pedestrians a head start of 3-7 seconds to begin crossing the street. Such advanced walk signals have been proven to save lives by increasing visibility of pedestrians, reducing conflict between pedestrians and vehicles, increasing the likelihood of motorists yielding to pedestrians, and enhancing safety for pedestrians with slower mobility.² This bill would provide these same safety benefits to bicyclists in a bike lane or on the road.

This practice has been adopted in Washington, DC and New York City, which cites the policy as an effective tool in the city's Vision Zero strategy.³

¹ MDOT: [Annual Bicycle Crash Data Report](#). July 8, 2024.

² Federal Highway Administration: [Proven Safety Measures: Leading Pedestrian Intervals](#).

³ Fox: [NYC council approves 'head start' for cyclists at intersections](#).