

**Judicial Proceedings Committee
Senate Bill 133**

**Vehicle Laws - Stopping, Standing, or Parking in a Bike Lane or
Bicycle Path – Prohibition
January 22, 2025**

Position: Support With Amendment

Disability Rights Maryland (DRM) submits this testimony in support of SB 133 with an amendment. DRM is the federally designated Protection and Advocacy agency in Maryland, mandated to defend and advance the civil rights of people with disabilities. DRM supports SB 133 because it will lower the frequency of bicycle lane and path obstructions across the state, making our roads safer for people with disabilities. Individuals who use wheelchairs and mobility scooters regularly utilize bicycle lanes to navigate their communities. For people with disabilities to have unfettered access to the community, these lanes must remain free from obstruction.

Marylanders who use wheelchairs and mobility scooters are often forced to travel in bicycle lanes due to inadequate sidewalks and curb cuts. When the sidewalk lacks ADA compliant curb cuts or is riddled with potholes, the street becomes the only option. Travel is safer where bicycle lanes or paths are available, as they provide additional separation from traffic. If a vehicle is stopped, standing, or parked in a bike lane or bicycle path, that can prevent individuals using mobility devices from navigating to their destination. DRM supports the proposed prohibition because Marylanders with disabilities deserve access to the community equal to their peers.

DRM proposes expanding this prohibition of blocking bike lanes to include bicycles, motor scooters, and electric personal assistive mobility devices (EPAMDs). We suggest this amendment because we often see vehicles other than cars parked in bike lanes, especially dockless micromobility devices such as e-scooters. When any type of vehicle blocks a bike lane, a wheelchair or mobility scooter user is forced to return to their origin or travel in the roadway with active traffic. This not only restricts access to the community but also it creates unsafe situations for bike lane users with disabilities.

The proposed amendment would apply to § 21-1208. Actions prohibited relating to bicycles, EPAMDs, or motor scooters. The language

would be: "A person may not secure a bicycle, an EPAMD, or motor scooter in a manner that obscures a bike lane or bicycle path." We hope this amendment can be added to keep our bike lanes free from obstacles and safe for all users.

For the reasons above, we support SB 133 with amendments. Thank you for your consideration of this commonsense legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact me at AudreyS@DisabilityRightsMD.org or (443) 692-2507 for more information, if needed.

Respectfully submitted,

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