



SB 392 – Vehicle Laws – Bicycles, Play Vehicles, and Unicycles – Authorizations and Requirements

Judicial Proceedings Committee

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Josh Feldmark

joshua@bikemd.org

Position: Support

Greetings Chair and Members of the Committee

At Bike Maryland 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 ALL bicyclists and pedestrians in Maryland.

This is an issue most likely to impact kids on bikes, individuals who use their bike as transportation, and occasional recreational cyclists. This bill simply flips a default in state law. Currently state law says that bikes are prohibited on sidewalks unless the local governing authority expressly allows it in law. This bill flips that so that bikes are allowed on sidewalks unless the local governing authority expressly prohibits it in law.

There are many locations in every jurisdiction in Maryland where sidewalks represent the safest and most efficient place for cyclists. Currently, in jurisdictions other than Howard, Frederick, and Montgomery County and the city of Annapolis, a child riding her bike to school on sidewalks is breaking the law. This is easily fixed, costs no money, and will make everyone safer.

Bike Maryland fully supports SB 392 and urges a favorable report.