



January 20, 2025

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 East Wing  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401 - 1991

## **OPPOSE: SB14 E-Bike Registration and Insurance**

Bikemore, Baltimore City's livable streets advocacy organization representing more than 8,000 advocates and the 30% of Baltimoreans who lack access to a car, is writing in opposition to SB14.

Baltimore City has one of the largest growths of bicycling in North American metro areas, recently launched a widely successful e-bike voucher program, and operates a large shared mobility program that provided more than 1.6 million rental rides via e-bikes and e-scooters last year, replacing thousands of miles of vehicle trips. Baltimore City also has one of the largest populations of car-free residents in the United States. Thousands of Baltimoreans rely on e-bikes to make connections to our transit system or to ride directly to and from work, daycare, and other needs.

Despite these statistics, experience from city agencies and elected officials on implementing positive bicycling legislation, and our local knowledge as advocates, no Baltimore City experts were consulted prior to introduction of this legislation.

If any had been consulted, legislation like this would not have been introduced. It is unnecessary, disincentivizes ridership, has untold effects on shared mobility operations, advances inequity, and achieves nothing. It seeks to solve a problem that doesn't exist.

If the sponsor is concerned about safety, we would encourage a focus on building all-ages bicycle infrastructure to separate bicycle riders away from automobiles, as drivers of the latter are responsible for over 550 fatalities and thousands of injuries in Maryland this past year, including responsibility for the city's only e-mobility fatalities.

We urge the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to oppose SB14, and are available to meet with any legislators interested in learning more about Baltimore City's successful active mobility programs and how legislation could be designed to enhance access to opportunity instead of destroying it.

**Sincerely,**

**Jed Weeks**

**Executive Director**