



Bill: SB 14 – Electric Bicycles - Certificate of Title, Registration, and Insurance

Position: OPPOSE

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Bike Maryland, an organization representing thousands of cyclists across the state, we write to express our strong opposition to SB 14, which proposes mandatory certificate of title, registration, and insurance for electric bicycles as vehicles.

This legislation raises significant concerns regarding its practicality, enforceability, and the negative impact it would have on cycling as a safe, accessible, and environmentally friendly mode of transportation. Requiring electric bicycles to be registered and insured as vehicles creates unnecessary financial and bureaucratic barriers, discouraging cycling at a time when Maryland is striving to reduce traffic congestion, lower carbon emissions, and promote active transportation.

Electric bicycles are fundamentally different from motor vehicles in terms of infrastructure needs, environmental impact, and usage patterns and risk to other road users. Imposing a vehicle registration requirement treats electric bicycles as equivalent to motor vehicles and disregards these key differences, especially the deaths of more than 500 people annually in Maryland by car drivers. Registry requirements have been attempted in other jurisdictions and have consistently proven ineffective, costly to administer, and counterproductive to increasing cycling participation.

Additionally, this bill risks creating disproportionate barriers for low-income individuals and communities that rely on electric bicycles as an affordable and essential mode of transportation.

We urge the committee to oppose this legislation. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at chair@bikemd.org.

Sincerely,

Peter Gray
Bike Maryland
Chair, Board of Directors

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

Baltimore Bicycling Club, Nigel Samaroo, Advocacy Committee Chair
BaltPOP - Baltimoreans for People-Oriented Places, Michael Scepaniak, Co-president
Bicycle Advocates For Annapolis and Anne Arundel County, Jon Korin, President
Bikemore, Baltimore Bike Advocacy Organization, Jed Weeks, Executive Director
Bike HoCo, Jack Guarneri, President
Frederick Bicycle Coalition, Tom Rinker, President
Washington Area Bicyclist Association, Elizabeth Kiker, Executive Director