



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

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SB 627 – Vehicle Laws - Bicycles - Operation at Intersections

DATE: February 13, 2025
COMMITTEE: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
POSITION: Favorable
FROM: The Office of Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

On behalf of Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater, I urge the committee to give **SB 627 – Vehicle Laws - Bicycles - Operation at Intersections** a favorable report.

This bill would allow bicyclists to cautiously make turns or proceed through intersections without stopping if they reduce their speed and yield to right-of-way traffic.

As we work across the State to encourage sustainable transportation, it is important that we ensure that roadways are safe for all modes of transportation, including biking. Frederick County's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission, which serves as an advisory body to the County Executive and County Council on pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure needs, has recommended SB 627 to improve bicyclist safety.

Currently, bicyclists must follow the same rules of the road as passenger vehicles. This means that bicyclists need to come to a full stop at every stop sign. While this may sound safe, bicyclists are at a greater risk of being hit by another vehicle when coming to a full stop. If bicyclists are permitted to simply yield at these intersections, they can continue their forward motion and reduce the risk of a collision with a vehicle at the stop or on the roadway they are entering.

While we continue to build out bike lanes and make it easier for residents to choose bicycling, we must also improve road safety laws to take bicyclists into consideration. By reducing the risk of bike and vehicle collisions, SB 627 assists us in encouraging this healthy and sustainable transportation option.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 627. I urge you to advance this bill with a favorable report.