



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chair and
Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Darren Popkin, Executive Director, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Samira Jackson, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: February 12, 2025

RE: **SB 627 - Vehicle Laws - Bicycles - Operation at Intersections**

POSITION: **OPPOSE**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **OPPOSE SB 627**. This bill allows bicyclists to make turns or proceed through intersections without stopping, as potential indicated by normal traffic laws.

MCPA and MSA strongly oppose this bill, as it creates a dangerous precedent that undermines uniform traffic laws and compromises road safety. Allowing bicyclists to treat stop signs as yield signs introduces unpredictability into the flow of traffic, increasing the likelihood of collisions between cyclists and motorists. Drivers expect all road users to follow the same rules, and when cyclists are permitted to bypass complete stops, it can lead to confusion and misjudgments at intersections. For public safety, it is critical that bicyclists adhere to the same traffic control measures as motor vehicles, ensuring consistency and predictability on the road.

Under SB 627, there is also an undue burden on law enforcement officers who are responsible for enforcing traffic safety regulations. Selectively exempting cyclists from stopping at intersections makes it more difficult to hold them accountable when accidents occur and increases the risk of serious injuries or fatalities. Intersections are among the most dangerous points on roadways, and requiring all users—whether on bicycles or in vehicles—to come to a full stop ensures safer interactions. To protect both cyclists and drivers, it is essential that the law continues to mandate that bicycles follow the same stop sign regulations as motor vehicles. For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **strongly OPPOSE SB 627** and urge an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report.