

HB1567_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
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TESTIMONY ON HB#1567 – FAVORABLE

Vehicle Laws - Bicycles, Motor Scooters, and EPAMDs - Overtaking and Passing (Pass Pedestrians Safely Act)

TO: Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#1567, Vehicle Laws - Bicycles, Motor Scooters, and EPAMDs - Overtaking and Passing (Pass Pedestrians Safely Act)

Price Benowitz Accident Injury Lawyers discuss the issue of *Safety and Preventative Measures for Pedestrian Accidents in Maryland* on their website. ¹

Vehicle operators must pay full attention to their driving and be on the lookout for pedestrians. In 2008 national statistics showed that alcohol was involved either for the driver or the pedestrian in 48% of all pedestrian accidents. Visibility of pedestrians is also much harder at nighttime. Vehicles must be operated with headlights on at dusk and thereafter so that the vehicle driver can see pedestrians and pedestrians can see the vehicle. Vehicle operators must operate their vehicles at the posted speed for the safety of themselves, other motorists, and pedestrians.

Pedestrians have a reasonable expectation that motorists will be operating their vehicles at the posted speed and rely on that so they can gauge distance and timing to cross. Prevalent today are drivers who do not obey the motor vehicle laws texting and talking on cellphones while driving. This distraction of the driver can be lethal and remains a leading cause of crashes.

Maryland has strong pedestrian safety laws now, but this bill will strengthen those laws.

This bill will require an operator of a bicycle, a motor scooter, or an EPAMD to exercise due care to avoid a collision with another vehicle or a pedestrian and maintain, if practicable, a safe distance of at least 3 feet when passing a vehicle or pedestrian; requires an operator of a bicycle, a motor scooter, or an EPAMD to give an audible warning by voice or device before passing a pedestrian; establishes that a violation of the distance or audible warning requirements is a secondary offense subject to a civil penalty of \$25; etc.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report and pass HB1567.

¹ <https://pricebenowitz.com/maryland-injury/pedestrian-accident-lawyer/safety-measures/>