



March 10, 2026

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee - **Unfavorable**

SB 743 – Workgroup to Study State Laws on Electric Bicycles

Dear Chair Smith and Committee Members:

Bike Maryland and the undersigned coalition of organizations from across Maryland, representing thousands of cyclists across the state, offer this position.

We share the safety concerns about the proliferation of electric mobility devices, especially among youth. We are particularly concerned about the deceptive marketing of devices that exceed the statutory definition of *electric bicycle* as “ebikes”. These devices commonly referred to as “e-motos” exceed the speed and power limits of *electric bicycles* and already require license, registration and insurance under Maryland law. Unfortunately, this is not widely understood by the public and enforcement is challenging. This includes electric devices promoted as “ebikes” but are actually mopeds, dirt bikes, motorcycles and such.

There are several initiatives underway that the bill seeks to address including:

1. **MDOT Micromobility Task Force** focused on a multidisciplinary approach to safety education, including targeted resource distribution to law enforcement, local jurisdictions, advocates, schools, at-risk populations, and retailers. The group aims to improve micromobility safety by analyzing crash data and adapting safety materials.
2. **The Maryland Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (MBPAC) Legislative Subcommittee** which recommends legislation and assesses similar initiatives in other states.
3. **Infrastructure improvements** by SHA under Vision Zero, Complete Streets, Pedestrian Safety Action Plan, Vulnerable Road User Safety Corridors and similar programs implemented by local jurisdictions.

We agree with the objectives of SB743 but these task groups, policies and programs are already underway. If the bill proceeds, the goals will not be met without a more robust task force membership to include industry, safety and advocacy groups.

Baltimore Area Bicycling Association (BABA)
Baltimoreans for People Oriented Places (BaltPOP)
Bicycle Advocates for Annapolis & Anne Arundel County (BikeAAA)
Bike Harford
Bike Maryland
Bikemore
Bike HoCo
Frederick Bicycle Coalition
Maryland Eastern Shore Trail Network
Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA)