

Vehicle Laws - Stopping, Standing, or Parking in a Bike Lane or Bicycle Path - Prohibition
Judicial Proceedings Committee
FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT

April 3, 2026

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Committee Members,

My name is Seth Grimes. I live in Montgomery County and am a safe-streets and bicycling advocate.

I support HB 1381, establishing a prohibition on stopping, standing, or parking in a bike lane or bicycle path, if and only if amended to remove § 21-1003 provision GG(1)(V), which would dangerously and inconsistently provide an exemption for vehicles loading or unloading goods for pick up or delivery.

Absent that provision, HB 1381 is a strong safety measure. When a bike lane is blocked, bicyclists are forced into traffic lanes where they are less safe and also slow vehicular traffic. And it is for that reason that the committee should remove the loading/unloading exemption, which would endanger bicyclists. Further, I termed that exemption "inconsistent." Sensibly it does not apply to other § 21-1003 stopping/standing/parking prohibitions. Maryland does not allow vehicle loading/unloading stops or parking in crosswalks, sidewalks, intersections, or tunnels. You should not allow loading/unloading stops or parking in bike lanes.

I note that local stopping/standing/parking prohibitions enacted by Montgomery and Prince George's Counties this last fall, by the City of Frederick over the summer, and prior to that by Howard County and the City of Baltimore, do not provide this dangerous, inconsistent exemption for loading and unloading. These parking prohibitions and other municipal prohibitions now cover local streets in almost half the state. Clearly there is support for this law - for HB 1381 - without the dangerous exemption you should remove from HB 1381.

I urge the committee to amend HB 1381 as I have described, and only then deliver a Favorable committee report.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my position.

Seth Grimes

7300 Willow Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912
seth.grimes@gmail.com