



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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SB 155

DATE: January 20, 2026

SPONSOR: Senator Waldstreicher

ASSIGNED TO: Judicial Proceedings

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POSITION: Support (Montgomery County Department of Transportation)

Vehicle Laws – Bicycles, Play Vehicles, and Unicycles – Crosswalks

Senate Bill 155 would allow cycles and other “play vehicles” to enter an intersection using a pedestrian signal when the pedestrian signal displays “walk,” while also requiring that the cyclist yield to pedestrians and any other vehicle lawfully using the intersection.

The legislation would offer major benefits for cyclists, who are vulnerable roadway users that face significant risks of severe injury and/or death if involved in collisions with motor vehicles. Among them, the bill would give cyclists a “head start” for intersections where there is a leading pedestrian interval. Under Maryland law, cycles are considered vehicles but can be considered pedestrians when riding on the sidewalk. However, when cyclists are in the roadway, they are governed by the vehicular signal indications rather than the pedestrian indications. Like pedestrians, cyclists are vulnerable road users and can experience safety benefits by being able to establish themselves within the intersection before turning vehicles. Notably, if a cyclist enters the intersection from the right-most lane or shoulder, traveling straight, at the same time that a motorized vehicle turns right, the cyclist faces a risk that the motor vehicle does not see the cyclist and an accident occurs. Since cyclists have a longer acceleration time than cars, cyclists are in the risk zone of right-turning vehicles for a longer period of time. With the opportunity for a head start from a pedestrian signal that has a leading pedestrian interval (provides a “walk” signal a few seconds before the regular signal turns green), that cyclist is visible to vehicles and their risk of collision lessens.

Overall, Senate Bill 155 does not make drivers or pedestrians less safe. Instead, it simply confers benefits to cyclists in a manner that already exists for pedestrians. Cyclists are still responsible for following traffic signals and control signs, as well as yielding to other vehicles and pedestrians.

For these reasons the Montgomery County Department of Transportation supports this legislation and requests a favorable report from the Committee.