



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

*February 13, 2020*

House of Delegates Environment and Transportation Committee  
**House Bill 0230 – Vehicle Laws – Overtaking and Passing Bicycles**

**Position: Favorable**

Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to appear before the committee today to testify in Support of House Bill 230.

Since 2011, crashes involving bicyclist resulting in serious injury or death have been on the rise. 37.9 percent of these accidents occur when the bicyclist is riding in the same direction as a vehicle. Furthermore, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety suggests that 45 percent of bicyclist deaths could be attributed to unsafe passing.

The need to establish laws and regulations to protect bicyclist is clear.

House Bill 230 aims to update Maryland law to allow responsible drivers to move over to the left hand lane while in a no passing zone, as long as they respect the right of way of the cyclist and any oncoming traffic. While many drivers already practice this on the road, under the current law, drivers are not legally allowed to cross-over into the left lane while in a no-passing zone, even when there is no oncoming traffic and when not doing so would put the cyclist in danger.

This bill, which passed the full House last year, is supported by Governor Hogan's Task Force on Bicycle Safety, has addressed the concerns raised by the State Police by adopting the same language as it relates to yielding and turning right on red, as well as, adds equity in transit by aligning law with best practices.

With this, I respectfully request a favorable report for House Bill 230.