

SafeRoadsMD - ENT SB 315 Rec Favorable - Testimony

Uploaded by: John Seng

Position: FAV



SafeRoadsMD

SB 315

“Vehicle Laws – Bike Lanes and Shoulders –
Yielding Right-of-Way
(Sarah Debbink Langenkamp Memorial Act)”

PLEASE SUPPORT

MARYLAND COALITION FOR ROADWAY SAFETY, INC. URGES YOUR SUPPORT FOR SB 315

March 19, 2024

TO:

Honorable Delegate Marc Korman, Chair
Honorable Delegate Regina T. Boyce, Vice Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee
Maryland General Assembly
House Office Building, Room 251
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

FROM:

John J. Seng, Chair
SafeRoadsMD - *Maryland Coalition For Roadway Safety, Inc.*
JSeng@SafeRoadsMD.org (202) 468-7682
SafeRoadsMD.org

Dear Mr. Korman and Ms. Boyce:

SafeRoadsMD, a four-year old statewide non-profit advocacy organization, **strongly supports the enactment of SB 315, the “Vehicle Laws – Bike Lanes and Shoulders – Yielding Right-of-Way (Sarah Debbink Langenkamp Memorial Act)” bill.**

We respectfully request that the House Environment and Transportation Committee submit a favorable response to this bill to strengthen protections for bicyclists riding in metropolitan centers and on roads throughout Maryland.

SafeRoadsMD consists of Marylanders who care and speak for all Marylanders concerned about and acting to increase safety on our roads. Over the past three years, we and other groups have lobbied and petitioned for Maryland leaders to take alarm and strengthen the law to increase deterrence to roadway violence and realize Zero Deaths.

Approving SB 315 and the Governor’s signing this bill into law will send a message to vehicle operators who continue their distracted driving, speeding, driving under the influence, behaving recklessly and more, that killing or harming a bicyclist or other two/three-wheeled vehicle is not an excusable – that it’s a crime with severe penalties.

Maryland sorely needs more substantial deterrents and adequate law enforcement to improve road safety for all. This bill looks to secure greater safety for bicyclists and others who share the road equally – with safety coming first.

Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety, Inc. PO Box 7, Olney, Maryland 20830

Maryland Lawmakers Can Create a Maryland Road Safety Legacy!

As we've shared with the Environment and Transportation Committee in the past regarding road safety legislation: Is it possible that the Maryland General Assembly could boldly take a preeminent role during this 2024 session by sending the message to the public and the legal system that Maryland lawmakers put 100% into ensuring that road safety comes first? Can the Maryland General Assembly join with Governor Moore to ensure that **no one and nothing's left behind in making roadway safety a #1 priority**?

You Can Do It!

We thank you both and the House Environment and Transportation Committee for your review of our position, and urge you to submit a favorable recommendation and support for SB 315.

Sincerely,



John J. Seng
Chair

- cc: Governor Wes Moore
Sen. Ariana Kelly
Del. Sara Love
Ragina Ali, AAA MidAtlantic
SafeRoadsMD *Coalition* Board of Directors

SB0315- TSO - Bike Lanes and Shoulders - Yielding

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: FAV

March 21, 2024

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee
251 House Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401

RE: Letter of Support – Senate Bill 315 – Vehicle Laws – Bike Lanes and Shoulders – Yielding Right-of-Way

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) supports Senate Bill 315 as a tool in changing driver behavior and protecting vulnerable road users.

Senate Bill 315 seeks to increase penalties for motorists responsible for seriously injuring or killing anyone lawfully riding, walking, or rolling in either a dedicated bicycle lane or a marked shoulder.

MDOT's top priority is safety and any life lost on our roadways is one too many. As such, MDOT considers the safety of all users when implementing enforcement strategies supported by the National Roadway Safety Strategy (NRSS) and the Safe System Approach. As Maryland works towards eliminating traffic-related serious injuries and deaths, MDOT is applying a data driven approach to shape the strategies and metrics that guide our safety programs. MDOT's programs are designed to help Maryland prioritize efforts to achieve zero deaths and serious injuries by 2030. Resources like the NRSS, 2050 Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, MVA's Strategic Highway safety Plan (SHSP), and MHSO's Crash Data Dashboard provide a clear vision for the State to equitably prioritize needs and improve the safety of all lawful roadway users in Maryland.

Senate Bill 315 is a way to recognize and honor the life of Ms. Langenkamp while also affirming the State's commitment to ensuring safe and responsible activity on our roadways.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee grant Senate Bill 315 a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

Pilar Helm
Director of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-865-1090