



# Advocacy Position

Bicycle Advocates for Annapolis & Anne Arundel County  
P.O. Box 208, Arnold, MD 21012 [www.bikeaaa.org](http://www.bikeaaa.org)

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Environmental Matters Committee  
House Office Building, Room 250  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

January 23, 2012

RE: SUPPORT House Bills 92, 52 and 241

Dear Chairperson McIntosh, Vice Chair Malone and members of the Environmental Matters Committee,

Bicycle Advocates for Annapolis & Anne Arundel County ("BikeAAA") is a new all-volunteer 501c3 promoting safe cycling throughout Anne Arundel County. Studies have shown that the most important factors for getting people to ride are "being safe and feeling safe". Improved safety brings more cyclists and more biking means healthier citizens, less traffic, improved environment and stronger economies. Forward looking communities across the U.S. are promoting bicycling as a vital means of transportation and Maryland should continue to make bike safety paramount. Safe use of our roads among drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians has drawn great attention in Anne Arundel County following two tragic cycling fatalities in 2013.

We support proposed legislation in the current session to make bicycling safer on Maryland roads. Specifically we support HB92 to increase the legal bike-passing distance from 3 to 4 feet. This increase provides a greater margin of physical safety and encourages greater prudence for drivers determining when it is safe to pass. HB241 strengthens safe passing by eliminating a conflict with the 3 foot (or 4 foot if HB92 is enacted) passing law by allowing crossing of a solid lane marker when it is safe to do so while also eliminating the exception for narrow roads. We also support HB52 to clarify the legal duties of cyclists on the road. These laws will make our roads safer both by their content and in the attention they will draw to sorely needed public education regarding safe practices among drivers and cyclists.

We urge the committee to pass all three of these important safety laws. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Jon Korin, President

**Bicycle Advocates for Annapolis & Anne Arundel County ("BikeAAA")**

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