

SENATE BILL 315

R5

4lr1960
CF 4lr0829

By: **Senator Kelly**

Introduced and read first time: January 11, 2024

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – Bike Lanes and Shoulders – Yielding Right-of-Way**
3 **(Sarah Debbink Langenkamp Memorial Act)**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from committing a violation that contributes to a
5 crash of a certain provision of law governing the right-of-way of a bicycle, a motor
6 scooter, or an electronic personal assistive mobility device lawfully in a designated
7 bike lane or shoulder; and generally relating to yielding the right-of-way in a bike
8 lane or shoulder.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Transportation
11 Section 21–1209
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
15 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article – Transportation**

17 21–1209.

18 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, the driver of a vehicle shall:

19 (1) Exercise due care to avoid colliding with any bicycle, EPAMD, or motor
20 scooter being ridden by a person; and

21 (2) When overtaking a bicycle, an EPAMD, or a motor scooter, pass safely
22 at a distance of not less than 3 feet, unless, at the time:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(i) The bicycle, EPAMD, or motor scooter rider fails to operate the vehicle in conformance with § 21–1205(a) of this subtitle (“Riding to right side of roadway”) or § 21–1205.1(b) of this subtitle (“Roadway with bike lane or shoulder paved to smooth surface”);

(ii) A passing clearance of less than 3 feet is caused solely by the bicycle, EPAMD, or motor scooter rider failing to maintain a steady course; or

(iii) The highway on which the vehicle is being driven is not wide enough to lawfully pass the bicycle, EPAMD, or motor scooter at a distance of at least 3 feet.

(b) A person may not throw any object at or in the direction of any person riding a bicycle, an EPAMD, or a motor scooter.

(c) A person may not open the door of any motor vehicle with intent to strike, injure, or interfere with any person riding a bicycle, an EPAMD, or a motor scooter.

(d) **(1)** Unless otherwise specified in this title, the driver of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to a person who is lawfully riding a bicycle, an EPAMD, or a motor scooter in a designated bike lane or shoulder if the driver of the vehicle is about to enter or cross the designated bike lane or shoulder.

(2) (I) A PERSON MAY NOT COMMIT A VIOLATION OF PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION THAT CONTRIBUTES TO A CRASH.

(II) A PERSON CONVICTED OF A VIOLATION OF SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH IS SUBJECT TO IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 2 MONTHS OR A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$2,000 OR BOTH.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2024.