

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 1567

(Delegates Odom and Boyce)

Environment and Transportation

Judicial Proceedings

Vehicle Laws - Bicycles, Motor Scooters, and EPAMDs - Audible Warnings (Pass Pedestrians Safely Act)

This bill (1) authorizes a person to operate an electric personal assistive mobility device (EPAMD) that is equipped with specified audible devices; (2) alters provisions pertaining to audible devices on specified vehicles; and (3) requires a person operating a bicycle, motor scooter, or EPAMD to give specified audible warnings when overtaking and passing a pedestrian, subject to secondary enforcement and a civil penalty of \$25.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect State finances or operations.

Local Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect local government finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary/Current Law: Under current law, a person may operate a bicycle or motor scooter that is equipped with a bell or other device capable of giving a signal audible for a distance of at least 100 feet. The bill adds horns and EPAMDs to this provision.

Under current law, a bicycle or motor scooter may not be equipped with a siren or whistle; moreover, a person may not use, on a bicycle, any siren or whistle. Under the bill, both of these prohibitions apply to bicycles, motor scooters, and EPAMDs.

The bill further requires an operator of a bicycle, motor scooter, or EPAMD to give an audible warning by voice, bell, horn, or other device before overtaking and passing a pedestrian. A police officer may enforce this requirement only as a secondary action when the officer detains an operator for a suspected violation of another provision of the Annotated Code of Maryland. A violation is subject to a civil penalty of \$25.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Calvert and Prince George's counties; City of Annapolis; Maryland Municipal League; Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Department of State Police; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 11, 2026
jg/ljm Third Reader - March 31, 2026
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