

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1567 (Delegate Odom)
Environment and Transportation

Vehicle Laws - Bicycles, Motor Scooters, and EPAMDs - Overtaking and Passing
(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 engage in specified cautionary measures when approaching a vehicle or 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:

Audible Devices

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.

Exercising Due Care and Maintaining a Minimum Distance When Passing and Overtaking

Under current law, § 21-1209 of the Transportation Article requires the driver of a *vehicle* to (1) exercise due care to avoid colliding with any bicycle, EPAMD, or motor scooter being ridden by a person and (2) when overtaking a bicycle, EPAMD, or motor scooter, pass safely at a distance of at least three feet, unless specified exceptions apply.

The bill establishes a substantially similar requirement for operators of *bicycles, motor scooters, and EPAMDs* with respect to *vehicles and pedestrians*. Under the bill, a person operating a bicycle, motor scooter, or EPAMD must (1) exercise due care to avoid colliding with a vehicle or pedestrian and (2) when overtaking and passing a vehicle or pedestrian, if practicable, pass safely at a distance of at least three feet. 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 these requirements 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

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caw/ljm

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