

NOTICE

Issued by:

Office of Transportation

Bill 59-21 – Public Safety – Traffic – Vehicles on Public Sidewalks

Notice #:

OOT– 21-03

Release Date:

10/01/2021

Contact:

Crystal McGill-Belk
Transportation
Administrator

Phone #:

410-222-7440

PURPOSE STATEMENT. The purpose of this NOTICE is to inform interested or affected parties of the passage of the above referenced Bill on July 19, 2021, which is effective 45 days after voted into law.

Subsection 21-1103(a) of the Transportation Article of the State Code prohibits driving any vehicle on a sidewalk or in a sidewalk area other than a driveway. However, subsection (b) of that section provides that a bicycle, play vehicle, or unicycle may be ridden on a sidewalk or in a sidewalk area if allowed by local ordinance.

County Council voted unanimously to approve the Bill to provide the local ordinance specified in State Code, which legalizes the use of bicycles, play vehicles, and unicycles on public sidewalks and public sidewalk areas in Anne Arundel County, unless otherwise posted.

The Bill states that riders have all rights and duties of pedestrians in the same circumstances, requires riders to yield the right-of-way to pedestrians, to obey all State and County rules of the road, and to ride at reasonable speeds and to not otherwise create a hazard.

Ramond Robinson
Director

Office of Transportation



Attachment: Final Bill 59-21

COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

Legislative Session 2021, Legislative Day No. 13

Bill No. 59-21

Introduced by Ms. Lacey, Chair
(by request of the County Executive)

and by Ms. Pickard, Ms. Rodvien, and Ms. Fiedler

By the County Council, June 7, 2021

Introduced and first read on June 7, 2021
Public Hearing set for and held on July 6, 2021
Public Hearing on AMENDED bill set for and held on July 19, 2021
Bill Expires September 10, 2021

By Order: Laura Corby, Administrative Officer

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning: Public Safety – Traffic – Vehicles on Public Sidewalks

2
3 FOR the purpose of defining “bicycle”; allowing the riding of bicycles, play vehicles, or
4 unicycles on public sidewalks and sidewalk areas; adding exceptions and conditions to
5 riding on sidewalks; and generally relating to public safety.

6
7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments: § 12-3-103
8 Anne Arundel County Code (2005, as amended)

9
10 SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the County Council of Anne Arundel County, Maryland,*
11 That Section(s) of the Anne Arundel County Code (2005, as amended) read as follows:

12
13 ARTICLE 12. PUBLIC SAFETY

14
15 TITLE 3. TRAFFIC

16
17 **12-3-103. Vehicles on sidewalks.**

18
19 (a) **Prohibition.** Except as provided in subsection (b), a person may not drive a vehicle
20 on a sidewalk or sidewalk area unless it is a permanent or authorized temporary driveway.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate new matter added to existing law.
[[Brackets]] indicate matter repealed from existing law.
Captions and taglines in **bold** in this bill are catchwords and are not law.
Underlining indicates matter added to bill by amendment.
~~Strikeover~~ indicates matter removed from bill by amendment.

1 **(b) Exceptions.**

2
3 (1) FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION, "BICYCLE" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH
4 IN § 11-104 OF THE TRANSPORTATION ARTICLE OF THE STATE CODE, EXCEPT THAT IT DOES
5 NOT INCLUDE A "MOPED" AS DEFINED IN § 11-134.1 OF THE TRANSPORTATION ARTICLE OF
6 THE STATE CODE.

7
8 (2) (I) ~~[[Where permitted]]~~ EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II), a person
9 may ride a ~~[[golf cart,]]~~ bicycle, play vehicle, or unicycle on a ~~public~~ PUBLIC sidewalk or
10 ~~public~~ PUBLIC sidewalk area.

11
12 (II) IF IT IS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST FOR THE SAFETY OF RIDERS OR
13 PEDESTRIANS, ~~THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE~~ THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
14 WORKS MAY PROHIBIT RIDING ON SIDEWALKS OR SIDEWALK AREAS AS DESIGNATED BY
15 SIGNAGE.

16
17 (III) RIDERS ON SIDEWALKS AND SIDEWALK AREAS SHALL:

18
19 1. HAVE ALL RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF A PEDESTRIAN UNDER THE SAME
20 CIRCUMSTANCES, EXCEPT THAT THE RIDER SHALL YIELD THE RIGHT-OF-WAY TO
21 PEDESTRIANS AND PERSONS USING A PERSONAL ASSISTIVE MOBILITY DEVICE;

22
23 2. OBEY ALL STATE AND COUNTY RULES OF THE ROAD; AND

24
25 3. RIDE AT REASONABLE SPEEDS AND NOT OTHERWISE CREATE A HAZARD.

26
27 (3) A disabled person may use a special vehicle ~~[[or golf cart]]~~ on a sidewalk or
28 sidewalk area or bike path from one-half hour after sunrise to one-half hour before sunset.

29
30 **(c) Sanction for violation.** A violation of this section is punishable by a fine of \$50.

31
32 SECTION 2. *And be it further enacted,* That this Ordinance shall take effect 45 days
33 from the date it becomes law.

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED: July 6, 2021

READ AND PASSED this 19th day of July, 2021

By Order:



Laura Corby
Administrative Officer

PRESENTED to the County Executive for his approval this 21st day of July, 2021



Laura Corby
Administrative Officer

APPROVED AND ENACTED this 26th day of July, 2021



Matthew Power
Signing as Acting County Executive for
Steuart Pittman
County Executive

EFFECTIVE DATE:

SEP 9 2021

**I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF
BILL NO. 59-21. THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH IS RETAINED IN THE
FILES OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL.**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Laura Corby".

**Laura Corby
Administrative Officer**