



# LEAGUE OF MICHIGAN BICYCLISTS

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## VRU Bills Fact Sheet, April 2024

LMB supports the VRU bill package. These bipartisan, bicameral bills **close a gap in existing law** between charges that are not serious enough and charges that are too serious, giving prosecutors appropriate options. They recognize that **people who walk, bike, ride horses, and use wheelchairs (a.k.a. vulnerable roadway users or VRU)** are exposed to traffic risk but not protected by steel frames, just like road workers or farmers on tractors.

Current law provides for a felony punishable by up to 15 years imprisonment and/or a fine of \$7,500 or both for a moving violation causing death to a person operating "an implement of husbandry" (i.e. farm equipment.)

These bills would extend this felony to all vulnerable roadway users, define "vulnerable roadway user", and create an additional felony punishable by up to 5 years imprisonment and/or a fine of \$5,000 for a moving violation causing serious injury (requiring inpatient treatment at a hospital or rehab facility) to vulnerable roadway users and individuals operating an implement of husbandry.

"Vulnerable roadway user" is defined as a pedestrian; a person using roller skates, inline skates, nonmotorized scooter, nonmotorized skateboard, or a wheelchair; a person riding a horse or driving or riding a horse-drawn carriage; or a person on a bicycle, electric bicycle, electric skateboard, or electric personal assistive mobility device.

"12 states – Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Oregon, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington – have VRU laws that define a set of road users as vulnerable and provide specific processes and penalties for actions directed at those users."

Source: <https://bikeleague.org/bike-laws/model-legislation/model-vulnerable-user-law/>

**HB 5223** Traffic control: violations; definition for "transportation device"; add.

Rep. Julie **Rogers**; Schuette, Bierlein, Roth, Mueller, Slagh, Bezotte, BeGole, Wilson, Carter, Morse, Hood, MacDonell, Steckloff, Weiss, Scott, Brixie, Rheingans

**HB 5224** Traffic control: accidents; penalties for moving violation causing physical injury or death to a vulnerable roadway user; enhance.

Rep. Bill **Schuette**; Rogers, Bierlein, Roth, Mueller, Slagh, Bezotte, BeGole, Wilson, Carter, Morse, Hood, MacDonell, Steckloff, Weiss, Scott, Brixie, Rheingans

**SB 617** Traffic control: accidents; penalties for moving violation causing physical injury or death to a vulnerable roadway user; enhance.

Sen. Sean **McCann**; Klinefelt, Chang

**SB 618** Traffic control: violations; definition for "vulnerable roadway user"; add.

Sen. Veronica **Klinefelt**; Chang, McCann

I'm happy to answer any questions you might have. Email [matt@LMB.org](mailto:matt@LMB.org) or call 517-410-5499.

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