AN ACT

To specify damages, costs, and reasonable attorney's fees available to an individual who, while riding a bicycle, is the victim of and prevails in a civil action for an assault or battery by a motorist.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the "Access to Justice for Bicyclists Act of 2012".

Sec. 2. Civil action for bicyclists.

(a) An individual who, while riding a bicycle, is the victim of an assault or battery by a motorist, and prevails in a civil action for such assault or battery, shall be entitled to:

(1) Statutory damages of $1,000 or actual damages, whichever is greater;

(2) Reasonable attorney's fees and costs; provided, that the total amount of damages is less than $10,000; and

(3) Any other relief available under the law.

(b) For the purposes of this section, the term "motorist" means an individual who operates a motor vehicle, as defined in section 102(e-1) of the District of Columbia Traffic Adjudication Act of 1978, effective September 12, 1978 (D.C. Law 2-104; D.C. Official Code § 50-2301.02(5A)).

Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(3)).

Sec. 4. Effective date.

This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of Congressional review as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of Columbia Register.