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1 S.123

2 Representative Pouech of Hinesburg moves that the House propose to the
3 Senate that the bill be amended by striking out Sec. 44, effective dates, and its
4 associated reader assistance heading in their entirety and by inserting in lieu
5 thereof six new sections to be Secs. 44–49 and their associated reader
6 assistance headings to read as follows:

7 * * * Operation of Bicycles * * *

8 Sec. 44. 23 V.S.A. § 1139 is amended to read:

9 § 1139. RIDING ON ROADWAYS AND BICYCLE PATHS

10 (a) ~~A person~~ Due care and riding on the right. An individual operating a
11 bicycle upon a roadway shall exercise due care when passing a standing
12 vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction. Bicyclists generally shall ride
13 as near to the right side of the improved area of the highway right-of-way as is
14 safe, except that a bicyclist:

15 * * *

16 (b) ~~Persons riding~~ Riding two abreast. Individuals operating bicycles upon
17 a roadway may not ride more than two abreast except on paths or parts of
18 roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles or except as otherwise
19 permitted by the Commissioner of Public Safety in connection with a public
20 sporting event in which case the Commissioner shall be authorized to adopt
21 such rules as the public good requires. ~~Persons~~ Individuals riding two abreast

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1 shall not impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic and, on a
2 laned roadway, shall ride within a single lane.

3 (c) Obedience to traffic-control devices and traffic-control signals. An
4 individual operating a bicycle shall follow all traffic-control devices and
5 traffic-control signals governing motor vehicles with the following exceptions:

6 (1) Stop sign or flashing red signal.

7 (A) An individual operating a bicycle approaching a stop sign or a
8 flashing red signal may cautiously make a turn or proceed through the
9 intersection without stopping at the stop sign or flashing red signal if the
10 individual:

11 (i) slows down to a reasonable speed;

12 (ii) stops pursuant to subsection 1048(b) of this title if required to
13 avoid an immediate hazard; and

14 (iii) yields the right-of-way to:

15 (I) any pedestrian in the intersection or an adjacent crosswalk;
16 and

17 (II) any vehicle or other traffic that is in the intersection.

18 (B) The provisions of this subdivision (c)(1) shall not apply to an
19 intersection with an active railroad grade crossing. An individual operating a
20 bicycle shall comply with the provisions of section 1071 of this title with
21 respect to intersections with an active railroad grade crossing.

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1 (2) Pedestrian-control devices and pedestrian-control signals. Except as
2 otherwise provided pursuant to section 1139a of this subchapter, an individual
3 operating a bicycle who is facing a “walk” signal, as defined in section 1023 of
4 this chapter, may make a turn or proceed across the roadway or intersection in
5 the direction of the signal but shall yield the right-of-way to any vehicles or
6 pedestrians in the roadway or intersection.

7 (d) Riding on a partially controlled access highway. Bicycles may be
8 operated on the shoulders of partially controlled access highways, which are
9 those highways where access is controlled by public authority but where there
10 are some connections with selected public highways, some crossings at grade,
11 and some private driveway connections. The Traffic Committee may
12 determine that any portion of these highways is unsafe and therefore closed to
13 bicycle operation.

14 (e) Definitions. As used in this section:

15 (1) “Flashing red signal” means a traffic-control signal where a red lens
16 is illuminated with rapid intermittent flashes.

17 (2) “Immediate hazard” means a vehicle approaching an intersection at a
18 proximity and rate of speed sufficient to indicate to a reasonable individual that
19 there is a danger of collision or accident if the individual enters the
20 intersection.

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1 Sec. 45. 23 V.S.A. § 1139a is added to read:

2 § 1139a. BICYCLE CONTROL SIGNALS

3 (a) Bicycles shall obey bicycle-control signals. An individual operating a
4 bicycle shall obey the instructions of a bicycle-control signal, if present,
5 instead of any traffic-control signal for motor vehicles.

6 (b) Bicycle-control signal legend.

7 (1) Green bicycle signal.

8 (A) An individual operating a bicycle facing a green bicycle signal
9 may proceed straight through the intersection or turn right or left unless a sign
10 prohibits such a turn, provided that:

11 (i) the individual operating the bicycle will not be in conflict with
12 any simultaneous motor vehicle movements at that location; or

13 (ii) the bicycle movement at that location is not modified by lane-
14 use signs, turn-prohibition signs, pavement markings, separate turn signal
15 indications, or other traffic-control devices.

16 (B) An individual operating a bicycle pursuant to a green bicycle
17 signal, including when turning right and left, shall yield the right-of-way to
18 other individuals operating bicycles and pedestrians that are in the intersection
19 when the signal is exhibited.

20 (2) Steady yellow bicycle signal. An individual operating a bicycle
21 facing a steady yellow bicycle signal is warned that the steady green signal is

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1 being terminated and that the red signal will be exhibited immediately
2 following the steady yellow signal, at which time bicycle traffic traveling in
3 that direction shall not enter the intersection.

4 (3) Steady red bicycle signal.

5 (A) An individual operating a bicycle facing a steady red bicycle
6 signal alone shall stop at a clearly marked stop line, or if there is none, shall
7 stop before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection.

8 (B) Except when a sign is in place prohibiting a turn, an individual
9 operating a bicycle facing a steady red bicycle signal may:

10 (i) cautiously enter the intersection to turn right; or

11 (ii) after stopping as required pursuant to subdivision (A) of this
12 subdivision (b)(3), turn left from a one-way street onto a one-way street.

13 (C) An individual making a turn pursuant to subdivision (B) of this
14 subdivision (b)(3), shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and other
15 vehicles that are in the intersection.

16 (D) An individual operating a bicycle shall not turn right when facing
17 a red arrow signal unless a sign permitting such a turn is present.

18 (E) An individual operating a bicycle to the left of adjacent motor
19 vehicle traffic approaching the same intersection shall be prohibited from
20 turning right when facing a steady red bicycle signal and an individual
21 operating a bicycle to the right of adjacent motor vehicle traffic approaching

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1 the same intersection shall be prohibited from turning left when facing a steady
2 red bicycle signal.

3 Sec. 46. 23 V.S.A. § 1048 is amended to read:

4 § 1048. STOP OR YIELD INTERSECTIONS

5 * * *

6 (b) Except when directed to proceed by an enforcement officer or traffic-
7 control signal, or as otherwise provided pursuant to section 1139 of this
8 chapter, every driver of a vehicle approaching a stop intersection indicated by a
9 stop sign shall stop at a clearly marked stop line, but if none, before entering
10 the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection, or, if none, then at the point
11 nearest the intersecting roadway where the driver has a view of approaching
12 traffic on the intersecting roadway before entering the intersection. After
13 having stopped, the driver shall yield the ~~right-of-way~~ right-of-way to any
14 vehicle that has entered the intersection from another highway or that is
15 approaching so closely on said highway as to constitute an immediate hazard
16 during the time when ~~such~~ the driver is moving across or within the
17 intersection.

18 * * *

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1 Sec. 47. BICYCLE OPERATION AT STOP SIGNS AND SIGNALS;
2 EDUCATION; OUTREACH

3 On or before April 1, 2026, the Commissioners of Motor Vehicles and of
4 Public Safety, in consultation with stakeholders representing bicyclists,
5 pedestrians, municipalities, and law enforcement agencies, shall develop
6 education and outreach materials to inform vehicle operators, law enforcement
7 officers, municipalities, and members of the public regarding the laws
8 governing to the operation of bicycles at stop signs and signalized intersections
9 that will be effective beginning on July 1, 2026. The materials shall include
10 both written and graphical materials explaining bicycle movements that will be
11 permitted and prohibited at stop signs and signalized intersections beginning
12 on July 1, 2026.

13 Sec. 48. BICYCLE SAFETY AT INTERSECTIONS; REPORT

14 On or before January 1, 2027, the Commissioners of Motor Vehicles and of
15 Public Safety shall submit a written report to the House and Senate
16 Committees on Transportation regarding the implementation of the provisions
17 of Secs. 44–46 of this act and whether the rate of bicycle crashes at
18 intersections where traffic is controlled by stop signs or traffic-control signals
19 increased or decreased during calendar year 2026 in comparison to the
20 preceding three calendar years.

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*** Effective Dates ***

Sec. 49. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) Secs. 39 and 40 (window tinting) shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

(b) Secs. 44, 45, and 46 (operation of bicycles) shall take effect on July 1,
2027.

(c) This section and the remaining sections of this act shall take effect on
July 1, 2025.