

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. 40, effective dates, and its
4 associated reader assistance heading in their entirety and by inserting in lieu
5 thereof four new sections to be Secs. 40–43 and their associated reader
6 assistance headings to read as follows:

7 * * * Operation of Bicycles * * *

8 Sec. 40. 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~~ shall 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

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 except that an individual
6 operating a bicycle who is facing a “walk” signal, as defined in section 1023 of
7 this chapter, may make a turn or proceed across the roadway or intersection in
8 the direction of the signal but shall yield the right of way to any vehicles or
9 pedestrians in the roadway or intersection.

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

17 Sec. 41. 23 V.S.A. § 1139a is added to read:

18 § 1139a. BICYCLE CONTROL SIGNALS

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

1 (b) Bicycle-control signal legend.

2 (1) Green bicycle signal.

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

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

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

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

15 (2) Steady yellow bicycle signal. An individual operating a bicycle
16 facing a steady yellow bicycle signal is warned that the steady green signal is
17 being terminated and that the red signal will be exhibited immediately
18 following the steady yellow signal, at which time bicycle traffic traveling in
19 that direction shall not enter the intersection.

1 (3) Steady red bicycle signal.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 Sec. 42. 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 on roadways, including at signalized
9 intersections. The materials shall include both written and graphical materials
10 explaining permitted bicycle operations and requirements for the operation of
11 motor vehicles in relation to bicycles, including safe passing distance
12 requirements.

13 * * * Effective Dates * * *

14 Sec. 43. EFFECTIVE DATES

15 (a) This section and Secs. 15 and 16 (early renewal of operator's licenses,
16 operator's privilege cards, and nondriver identification) shall take effect on
17 passage.

18 (b) The remaining sections shall take effect on July 1, 2025.