

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 5 - 2 - 0

Yeas: Buckley, Gilman, Read, Smith G., Tomei

Nays: Butler, Beyer

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Judith Callens, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 5/23, 5/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Creates offense of unsafe passing of person operating a bicycle, as a Class A traffic violation, if driver fails to pass bicyclist to the left at a safe distance. Defines "safe distance" as a distance that is sufficient to prevent contact with the bicyclist if the person were to fall off the bicycle into the lane. Exempts motor vehicle driver if operating in a lane separate from and adjacent to a designated bicycle lane, at a speed not greater than 35 mile per hour or when the driver is passing bicyclist on the right side when the bicyclist is turning left. Allows driver of motor vehicle to cross the center of the roadway to pass a person operating a bicycle if the oncoming lane is unobstructed for a sufficient distance to avoid interference with oncoming traffic unless otherwise prohibited. Requires driver to return to authorized lane as soon as practicable. Specifies that passing a bicyclist in a no passing zone constitutes prima facie evidence of a violation if the passing results in injury to or death of person operating bicycle.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Original bill language
- Safety concerns with respect to forward crossview mirrors
- Incidents of motor vehicle-bicycle accidents
- Strategies for educating public
- ODOT share-the-road educational efforts

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces original measure.

BACKGROUND: The Department of Transportation (ODOT) recently initiated a share-the-road public education campaign. SB 108-B institutes requirements for drivers of motor vehicles to give appropriate space to bicyclists sharing the road.