

Written Testimony of Ross Plaetzer on HF1908

I would like to propose one change to the bill.

For the law on how much distance a motorist must give a bicyclist when passing, I suggest instead of 3 feet or one-half the distance of the motor vehicle, the distance be 3 feet when the car is traveling 30mph or slower, and 5 feet for all speeds over 30mph. This is simpler and more intuitive, since most drivers don't measure distance by the width of their car. Set distances, like 3 feet or 5 feet, are easier to remember and follow. This type of scheme is used in several states in Australia and has been successful there. See this link— <https://mylicence.sa.gov.au/road-rules/cycling-laws>

I've set out my suggestion below (in yellow highlight and bold).

1.1 2.7 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 169.18, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

2.8 Subd. 3. **Passing.** ~~The following rules shall govern the overtaking and passing of vehicles~~

2.9 ~~proceeding in the same direction, subject to the limitations, exceptions, and special rules~~

2.10 ~~hereinafter stated:~~

2.11 ~~(1)~~ (a) The driver of a vehicle overtaking another vehicle proceeding in the same direction

2.12 ~~shall~~ must pass to the left ~~thereof~~ of the other vehicle at a safe distance and ~~shall not again~~

2.13 ~~drive is prohibited from returning~~ to the right side of the roadway until safely clear of the

2.14 overtaken vehicle;

2.15 ~~(2)~~ (b) Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the driver of an

2.16 overtaken vehicle ~~shall~~ must give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle ~~on~~

2.17 ~~audible warning,~~ and ~~shall~~ must not increase the speed of the overtaken vehicle until

2.18 completely passed by the overtaking vehicle; ~~and,~~

2.19 ~~(3)~~ (c) The operator of a motor vehicle overtaking a bicycle or individual proceeding in

2.20 the same direction on the roadway ~~shall leave~~ or shoulder must:

2.21 (1) either (i) maintain a safe clearance distance while passing, but in no case less than

2.22 ~~three feet clearance, when passing the bicycle or individual~~ **for motor vehicle speeds up to 30 miles per hour and not less than five feet for motor vehicle speeds in excess of 30 miles per hour,** ~~is greater;~~ or (ii) completely enter another lane of the roadway

2.24 while passing; and ~~shall~~

2.25 (2) maintain clearance until the motor vehicle has safely past passed the overtaken bicycle

2.26 or individual. **If the operator of a motor vehicle overtaking a bicycle proceeding in the same direction on the roadway is unable to comply with paragraph (c), the operator must reduce the speed of the motor vehicle until it is safe to pass the bicycle, leaving the applicable minimum safe clearance.**

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