Overview

This bill regulates the timing of pedestrian traffic signals and amends the law governing the rights of pedestrians in crosswalks. It also appropriates money to the Minnesota safety council for its crosswalk safety awareness program.

Section

1 Crosswalk. Amends the definition of "crosswalk" to include intersections that have no sidewalk or marked crosswalk. In these situations, "crosswalk" means the width of the roadway from the intersection area to a line ten feet therefrom.

2 Rights in absence of signals. Amends the law that requires motorists to stop to yield to a pedestrian in a marked crosswalk or in any crosswalk at an intersection, by making it apply to any marked or unmarked crosswalk or at intersections without a crosswalk. Requires drivers to remain stopped until the pedestrian has cleared the lane in which the vehicle is stopped. Extends the present prohibition against a vehicle passing a vehicle stopped for a pedestrian, which now applies to marked crosswalks and unmarked crosswalks at intersections, to make it apply to any intersection.

3 Crossing between intersections. Amends the law that
requires pedestrians who cross at a place other than a marked crosswalk or an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection, to make it apply to crossing at a place other than a marked crosswalk or at an intersection without a marked crosswalk.

4 **Pedestrian safety crossings.** Permits local road authorities to designate, by ordinance, pedestrian safety crossings on highways under the authority's jurisdiction where safety considerations require extra time for pedestrian crossing. Permits the ordinance to set the timing of signals at the safety crossing consistent with the recommended timing for senior citizen and handicapped pedestrian crossings.

5 **Crosswalk safety awareness grants.** Directs the Minnesota safety council to continue its crosswalk safety awareness campaign. Directs the council to spend a portion of the appropriation in section 6 on:

- developing and distributing crosswalk safety education campaign materials; and
- mass media advertising throughout the state.

Also directs the council to spend a portion of its appropriation on grants to local governments and law enforcement agencies for:

- implementing pedestrian safety awareness activities;
- providing increased signage and crosswalk markings and evaluating their effect on crosswalk safety; and
- enhancing enforcement of pedestrian safety laws.

6 **Appropriation.** Appropriates $300,000 from the general fund to the Minnesota safety council for the purposes specified under section 5.

7 **Effective date.** Makes sections 1 to 4 effective September 1, 2000. Makes sections 5 and 6 effective July 1, 2000.