



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 86

February Session, 2000

Substitute House Bill No. 5615

House of Representatives, March 16, 2000

The Committee on Judiciary reported through REP. LAWLOR of the 99th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

An Act Concerning Right Turns When Passing A Bicyclist.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 14-242 of the general statutes is repealed and the following
2 is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (a) No person shall turn a vehicle at an intersection unless the
4 vehicle is in a proper position on the highway as required by section
5 14-241, or turn a vehicle to enter a private road or driveway or
6 otherwise turn a vehicle from a direct course or move right or left
7 upon a highway unless such movement can be made with reasonable
8 safety. No person shall so turn any vehicle without giving an
9 appropriate signal in the manner provided in section 14-244.

10 (b) A signal of intention to turn right or left shall be given
11 continuously during not less than the last one hundred feet traveled by
12 the vehicle before turning.

13 (c) No person shall stop or suddenly decrease the speed of a vehicle
14 without first giving an appropriate signal in the manner provided in
15 section 14-244 to the driver of any vehicle immediately to the rear
16 when there is opportunity to give such signal.

17 (d) No person shall turn a vehicle so as to proceed in the opposite
18 direction upon any curve, or upon the approach to, or near the crest of,
19 a grade, where such vehicle cannot be seen by the driver of any other
20 vehicle approaching from either direction within five hundred feet, or
21 at any location where signs prohibiting U-turns are posted by any
22 traffic authority.

23 (e) The driver of a vehicle intending to turn to the left within an
24 intersection or into an alley, private road or driveway shall yield the
25 right-of-way to any vehicle approaching from the opposite direction
26 which is within the intersection or within the area formed by the
27 extension of the lateral lines of the private alley, road or driveway
28 across the full width of the public highway with which it intersects, or
29 so close to such intersection of public highways or to the area formed
30 by the extension of the lateral lines of said private alley, road or
31 driveway across the full width of the public highway as to constitute
32 an immediate hazard.

33 (f) No person operating a vehicle who overtakes and passes a
34 person riding a bicycle and proceeding in the same direction shall
35 make a right turn at any intersection or into any private road or
36 driveway unless the turn can be made with reasonable safety.

37 ~~[(f)]~~ (g) Violation of any of the provisions of this section shall be an
38 infraction.

JUD Committee Vote: Yea 39 Nay 0 JFS

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: Potential Minimal Revenue Gain

Affected Agencies: Judicial Department

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

State Impact:

This bill could result in a minimal revenue gain from infractions related to improper turns in front of bicyclists. The extent to which this may occur is uncertain since it appears that violators under the bill could already be considered violators under CGS 14-242(a), which prohibits unsafe vehicle turns. The state collects about \$250,000 - \$300,000 per year for all violations of CGS 14-242 which includes a variety of vehicle turning restrictions.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5615

AN ACT CONCERNING RIGHT TURNS WHEN PASSING A BICYCLIST.

SUMMARY:

This bill prohibits a person operating a vehicle that overtakes and passes a bicyclist moving in the same direction from making a right turn at an intersection, private road, or driveway unless the turn can be made with reasonable safety.

As with other turning violations in current law, a violation of the bill's requirement is an infraction.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2000

BACKGROUND

Vehicle

A vehicle includes all vehicles used on the public highways.

Conduct of Bicyclists

Bicyclists are granted all the same statutory rights and are subject to all the statutory duties of a driver of a motor vehicle.

Infractions

Infractions are punishable by fines, usually set by Superior Court judges, of between \$35 and \$90, plus additional fees, surcharges, and costs. Some infraction fines increase when committed in designated construction, utility work, and school zones. This means some violators could have to pay \$361, although most have to pay less than that and many pay less than \$100. An infraction is not a crime; thus, violators do not have criminal records and can pay the fine by mail

without making a court appearance.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 39 Nay 0