



General Assembly

February Session, 2010

Raised Bill No. 343

LCO No. 1708

01708_____TRA

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Introduced by:
(TRA)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE IMPROVEMENT OF PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AT CROSSWALKS DESIGNATED BY TRAFFIC AUTHORITIES.

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

1 Section 1. Section 14-300 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2010*):

3 (a) The traffic authority shall have power to designate, by
4 appropriate devices or markers or by lines upon the surface of the
5 highway, such crosswalks and intersections as, in its opinion,
6 constitute [an especial] a danger to pedestrians crossing the highway
7 including, but not limited to, specially marked crosswalks in the
8 vicinity of schools, which crosswalks shall have distinctive markings,
9 in accordance with the regulations of the State Traffic Commission, to
10 denote use of such crosswalks by school children; and may maintain
11 suitable signs located at intervals along highways, particularly where
12 there are no sidewalks, directing pedestrians to walk facing vehicular
13 traffic.

14 (b) At any intersection where special pedestrian-control signals

15 bearing the words "Walk" or "Don't Walk" are placed, pedestrians may
16 cross the highway only as indicated by the signal. At any intersection
17 where traffic is controlled by other traffic control signals or by police
18 officers, pedestrians shall not cross the highway against a red or "Stop"
19 signal and shall not cross at any place not a marked or unmarked
20 crosswalk. A pedestrian started or starting across the highway on a
21 "Walk" signal or on any such crosswalk on a green or "Go" signal shall
22 have the right-of-way over all vehicles, including those making turns,
23 until such pedestrian has reached the opposite curb or safety zone.

24 (c) Except as provided in subsection (c) of section 14-300c, at any
25 crosswalk marked as provided in subsection (a) of this section or any
26 unmarked crosswalk, provided such crosswalks are not controlled by
27 police officers or traffic control signals, each operator of a vehicle shall
28 grant the right-of-way, and slow or stop such vehicle if necessary to so
29 grant the right-of-way, to any pedestrian crossing the roadway within
30 such crosswalk, provided such pedestrian steps off the curb or into the
31 crosswalk at the entrance to a crosswalk or is within that half of the
32 roadway upon which such operator of a vehicle is traveling, or such
33 pedestrian steps off the curb or into the crosswalk at the entrance to a
34 crosswalk or is crossing the roadway within such crosswalk from that
35 half of the roadway upon which such operator is not traveling. No
36 operator of a vehicle approaching from the rear shall overtake and
37 pass any vehicle, the operator of which has stopped at any crosswalk
38 marked as provided in subsection (a) of this section or any unmarked
39 crosswalk to permit a pedestrian to cross the roadway. The operator of
40 any vehicle crossing a sidewalk shall yield the right-of-way to each
41 pedestrian and all other traffic upon such sidewalk.

42 (d) The operator of a motor vehicle who approaches or comes into
43 the immediate vicinity of a pedestrian who is blind, as defined in
44 subsection (a) of section 1-1f, carrying a white cane or a white cane
45 tipped with red, or a pedestrian being guided by a guide dog, shall
46 reduce speed or stop, if necessary, to yield the right-of-way to such
47 pedestrian. No person, except one who is blind, shall carry or use on

48 any street or highway, or in any other public place, a cane or walking
49 stick which is white in color or white, tipped with red.

50 (e) On and after October 1, 2010, any crosswalk designated by a
51 traffic authority pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be
52 required by such authority to have distinctive markings and signage
53 and to have any control signals deemed necessary by such authority to
54 provide sufficient time for the safe crossing of pedestrians.

55 [(e)] (f) The operator of any motor vehicle who violates this section
56 shall be deemed to have committed an infraction and be fined ninety
57 dollars.

58 [(f)] (g) In any civil action arising under subsection (c) or (d) of this
59 section or sections 14-300b to 14-300d, inclusive, the doctrine of
60 negligence per se shall not apply.

61 Sec. 2. *(Effective from passage)* The State Traffic Commission shall
62 study the feasibility of adopting uniform safety standards applicable to
63 all pedestrian crosswalks and shall submit, not later than January 12,
64 2011, a report of its findings and recommendations, in accordance with
65 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint
66 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
67 matters relating to transportation.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2010</i>	14-300
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To improve the safety of persons using crosswalks.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]