

ASSEMBLY, No. 5570

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 5, 2021, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman LISA SWAIN

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblyman STERLEY S. STANLEY

District 18 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Requires motorists operating vehicles to maintain reasonable and safe distance when overtaking pedestrians and certain bicycles.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/17/2021)

1 AN ACT concerning the operation of motor vehicles overtaking
2 certain bicycles and pedestrians and supplementing Title 39 of
3 the Revised Statutes.

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5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

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8 1. a. (1) The driver of a vehicle overtaking a bicycle
9 proceeding in the same direction as the vehicle shall leave a
10 reasonable and safe distance between the vehicle and the bicycle of
11 not less than four feet until the vehicle has safely passed the
12 bicycle, except when the bicycle is traveling in a designated bicycle
13 path.

14 (2) The driver of a vehicle overtaking a pedestrian shall leave a
15 reasonable and safe distance between the vehicle and the pedestrian
16 of not less than four feet until the vehicle has safely passed the
17 pedestrian.

18 b. For the purposes of this section, "pedestrian" shall include,
19 but not be limited to, a pedestrian as defined in R.S.39:1-1, a person
20 in a wheelchair or motorized wheelchair as defined in R.S.39:1-1, a
21 person employed by or who contracts with any public utility
22 company in this State, a property maintenance worker, or any other
23 person who is legally permitted to be upon the roadway for work or
24 recreation.

25 c. A person violating the provisions of this section shall be
26 subject to a fine of not less than \$100 or more than \$500.

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28 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh
29 month following enactment.

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32 STATEMENT

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34 This bill requires the driver of a vehicle to maintain a reasonable
35 and safe distance of at least four feet when overtaking a pedestrian
36 or overtaking a bicycle traveling in the same direction as the
37 vehicle. A driver is not required to maintain a distance of at least
38 four feet when overtaking a bicycle traveling in a dedicated bicycle
39 path.

40 The bill defines a pedestrian to include: a pedestrian, a person in
41 a wheelchair or motorized wheelchair, a person employed by or
42 who contracts with a public utility company in the State, a property
43 maintenance worker, or any other person legally permitted to be
44 upon the roadway for work or recreation.

45 A person is subject to a fine of not less than \$100 or more than
46 \$500 for violating the provisions of the bill.