A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING STATEWIDE REGULATION OF PERSONS APPROACHING
CONTROLLED INTERSECTIONS WHO ARE NOT OPERATING MOTOR
VEHICLES.

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at http://leg.colorado.gov/)

Transportation Legislation Review Committee. An existing statute allows a municipality or county to adopt an ordinance or resolution specifying that a person riding a bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter may make a safety stop, rather than a full stop, under certain circumstances when approaching an intersection that is controlled...
by a stop sign or a traffic control signal as follows:

- When approaching a stop sign, if it is safe to proceed, the person may, after slowing to a reasonable speed of 15 miles per hour or less, or 10 or 20 miles per hour or less if so specified by municipality or county for a particular intersection and marked with appropriate signage, and yielding the right-of-way to any traffic or pedestrian in or approaching the intersection, continue through the intersection without stopping; and

- When approaching an illuminated red traffic control signal, the person must first stop at the intersection and yield to all other traffic and pedestrians and then, when safe to do so, may proceed straight or make a right turn through the intersection or, subject to specified conditions, make a left turn onto a one-way street only.

The bill amends the statute to make the substantive requirements described above uniform statewide for most persons approaching a controlled intersection who are not operating a motor vehicle. Such persons include pedestrians (approaching a controlled intersection with a stop sign) and operators of low-speed conveyances, as defined in the bill (approaching a controlled intersection with a stop sign or a traffic control signal).

The regulation of persons approaching controlled intersections is declared to be a matter of mixed state and local concern, and the amended statute is thus declared to supersede any conflicting local ordinance or resolution but not to affect the validity of any nonconflicting local ordinance or resolution that regulates the conduct of persons approaching controlled intersections. The bill does not create any right for a pedestrian or the operator of a low-speed conveyance to travel on any portion of a roadway where travel is otherwise prohibited by state law or a local ordinance or resolution.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-4-1412, amend

(1) as follows:

42-4-1412. Operation of bicycles, electric scooters, and other human-powered vehicles. (1) A person riding a bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter has all of the rights and duties applicable to the driver of any other vehicle under this article 4, except as
to special regulations in this article 4, except as provided in section
42-4-1412.5, and except as to those provisions that by their nature can
have no application. Bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter
riders shall comply with the rules set forth in this section and section
42-4-221, and, when using streets and highways within incorporated cities
and towns, are subject to local ordinances regulating the operation of
bicycles, electrical assisted bicycles, and electric scooters as provided in
section 42-4-111. Notwithstanding any contrary provision in this article
4, when a county or municipality has adopted an ordinance or resolution
pursuant to THAT REGULATES THE OPERATION OF BICYCLES, ELECTRICAL
ASSISTED BICYCLES, AND ELECTRIC SCOOTERS AT CONTROLLED
INTERSECTIONS, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 42-4-1412.5 (4)(a), AND THAT
DOES NOT CONFLICT WITH section 42-4-1412.5, riders are subject to the
local ordinance or resolution.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, amend 42-4-1412.5
as follows:

42-4-1412.5. Statewide regulation of certain persons
approaching intersections who are not operating motor vehicles -
status of existing local ordinance or resolution - legislative
declaration - definitions. (1) A county or municipality may adopt an
ordinance or resolution implementing this section. If a county or
municipality adopts an ordinance or resolution pursuant to this section,
the ordinance or resolution must specify the following: THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY HEREBY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

(a) THE REGULATION OF PERSONS APPROACHING CONTROLLED
INTERSECTIONS IS A MATTER OF MIXED STATE AND LOCAL CONCERN; AND

(b) IT IS NECESSARY, APPROPRIATE, AND IN THE BEST INTEREST OF
THE STATE TO REDUCE INJURIES, FATALITIES, AND PROPERTY DAMAGE
RESULTING FROM COLLISIONS AT CONTROLLED INTERSECTIONS BETWEEN
MOTOR VEHICLES AND PERSONS WHO ARE NOT OPERATING MOTOR
VEHICLES BY ALLOWING MOST PERSONS APPROACHING CONTROLLED
INTERSECTIONS WHO ARE FIFTEEN YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER OR WHO ARE
UNDER FIFTEEN YEARS OF AGE AND ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT AND WHO
ARE NOT OPERATING MOTOR VEHICLES TO APPROACH CONTROLLED
INTERSECTIONS IN THE MANNER SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION.

(2) (a) (I) A PEDESTRIAN OR A person riding a bicycle, electrical
assisted bicycle, or electric scooter WHO IS FIFTEEN YEARS OF AGE OR
OLDER OR WHO IS UNDER FIFTEEN YEARS OF AGE AND ACCOMPANIED BY
AN ADULT AND WHO IS OPERATING A LOW-SPEED CONVEYANCE and
approaching an intersection of a roadway with a stop sign shall slow down and, if required for safety, stop before
entering the intersection. If a stop is not required for safety, the
PEDESTRIAN OR person OPERATING A LOW-SPEED CONVEYANCE shall slow
to a reasonable speed and yield the right-of-way to any traffic or
pedestrian in or approaching the intersection. After the PEDESTRIAN OR
person OPERATING A LOW-SPEED CONVEYANCE has slowed to a reasonable
speed and yielded the right-of-way if required, the PEDESTRIAN OR person
OPERATING A LOW-SPEED CONVEYANCE may cautiously make a turn or
proceed through the intersection without stopping.

(b) (II) For purposes of this subsection (I) SUBSECTION (2)(a), a
reasonable speed is fifteen TEN miles per hour or less. A municipality, by
ordinance, or a county, by resolution, may reduce the maximum
reasonable speed at any individual intersection to ten miles per hour or
raise the maximum reasonable speed to twenty miles per hour if the
municipality or county also posts signs at the intersection stating that lower or higher speed limitation.

(c) A person riding a bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter WHO IS FIFTEEN YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER OR WHO IS UNDER FIFTEEN YEARS OF AGE AND IS ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT AND WHO IS OPERATING A LOW-SPEED CONVEYANCE and approaching an intersection of a roadway with a controlled intersection with an illuminated red traffic control signal shall stop before entering the intersection and shall yield to all other traffic and pedestrians. Once the person OPERATING A LOW-SPEED CONVEYANCE has yielded, the person OPERATING A LOW-SPEED CONVEYANCE may cautiously proceed in the same direction through the intersection or make a right-hand turn. When a red traffic control signal is illuminated, a person OPERATING A LOW-SPEED CONVEYANCE shall not proceed through the intersection or turn right if an oncoming vehicle is turning or preparing to turn left in front of the person OPERATING A LOW-SPEED CONVEYANCE.

(d) A person riding a bicycle, electrical assisted bicycle, or electric scooter WHO IS FIFTEEN YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER OR WHO IS UNDER FIFTEEN YEARS OF AGE AND IS ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT AND WHO IS OPERATING A LOW-SPEED CONVEYANCE approaching an intersection of a roadway with an illuminated red traffic control signal may make a left-hand turn only if turning onto a one-way street and only after stopping and yielding to other traffic and pedestrians. However, a person OPERATING A LOW-SPEED CONVEYANCE shall not turn left if an ONCOMING vehicle is traveling in the same direction as the person and the vehicle is turning or preparing to turn left. If the person is not turning left onto a one-way street, the person shall not make a left-hand turn at an
intersection while a red traffic control signal is illuminated. RIGHT.

(d) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS

SUBSECTION (2), IF A COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY HAS PLACED A TRAFFIC

SIGN OR A TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNAL AT A CONTROLLED INTERSECTION

AND THE TRAFFIC SIGN OR TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNAL PROVIDES

INSTRUCTIONS ONLY TO ONE OR MORE SPECIFIED TYPES OF LOW-SPEED

CONVEYANCES, THE OPERATOR OF A LOW-SPEED CONVEYANCE TO WHICH

THE TRAFFIC SIGN OR TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNAL IS DIRECTED SHALL OBEY

THE INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED BY THE SIGN OR TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNAL.

(2) (e) If a county or municipality adopted a valid ordinance or

resolution that regulates bicycles or electrical assisted bicycles

substantially as described in subsection (1) SUBSECTIONS (2)(a.5),

(2)(b.5), AND (2)(c.5) of this section prior to May 3, 2018, that ordinance

or resolution remains valid TO THE EXTENT THAT IT APPLIES TO THE

OPERATION OF BICYCLES OR ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLES BY PERSONS

WHO ARE UNDER FIFTEEN YEARS OF AGE AND WHO ARE NOT ACCOMPANIED

BY AN ADULT.

(2.5) THIS SECTION SUPERSEDES ANY CONFLICTING ORDINANCE

THAT A MUNICIPALITY, COUNTY, OR CITY AND COUNTY ADOPTS, BUT

nothing in this section affects the validity of an ANY ordinance or

resolution that ADOPTED BY a municipality, county, or city and county

adopted pursuant to this section if the ordinance or resolution: THAT

REGULATES THE CONDUCT OF PERSONS APPROACHING CONTROLLED

INTERSECTIONS AND DOES NOT CONFLICT WITH THIS SECTION.

(a) Was adopted before May 23, 2019; and

(b) Applies to electric scooters.

(3) The adoption of an ordinance or resolution in accordance with
This section does not diminish or alter the authority of the department of transportation or the state transportation commission, as those entities are defined in section 43-1-102, regarding the department's or commission's authority to regulate motor vehicle traffic on any portion of the state highway system as defined in section 43-2-101 (1).

(3.5) This section does not create any right for a pedestrian or the operator of a low-speed conveyance to travel on any portion of a roadway where travel is otherwise prohibited by state law or by an ordinance or resolution adopted by a municipality, county, or city and county.

(4) As used in this section:

(a) "Electrical assisted bicycle" means the term as it is defined in section 42-1-102 (28.5). "Controlled intersection" means an intersection of a roadway that is controlled by either a stop sign or a traffic control signal.

(b) "Municipality" means a home rule or statutory city, town, or city and county. "Low-speed conveyance" means:

(I) A vehicle, as defined in section 42-1-102 (112), that is not a motor vehicle, as defined in section 42-1-102 (58), a low-power scooter as defined in section 42-1-102 (48.5), or a low-speed electric vehicle, as defined in section 42-1-102 (48.6);

(II) A toy vehicle, as defined in section 42-1-102 (103.5), that is exclusively human-powered; or

(III) An electric personal assistance mobility device or EPAMD, as defined in section 42-1-102 (28.7), or a device that would be an electric personal assistance mobility device or EPAMD but for the fact that it has fewer or more than two
WHEELS OR HAS TANDEM WHEELS.

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-4-2301, amend (1)(g) and (1)(h); and add (1)(i) as follows:

42-4-2301. Comprehensive education. (1) The department of transportation, in collaboration with the departments of education and public safety and appropriate nonprofit organizations and advocacy groups, shall notify schools of the availability of and make available to schools existing educational curriculum for individuals under eighteen years of age regarding the safe use of public streets and premises open to the public by users of nonmotorized wheeled transportation and pedestrians. The curriculum shall focus on, at a minimum, instruction regarding:

(g) The use of hiking and bicycling trails; and

(h) Safe pedestrian practices; AND

(i) LEGAL REQUIREMENTS AND SAFE PRACTICES FOR APPROACHING CONTROLLED INTERSECTIONS AS A PEDESTRIAN OR WHILE OPERATING A LOW-SPEED CONVEYANCE, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 42-4-1412.5 (4)(b).

SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add part 25 to article 4 of title 42 as follows:

PART 25

EDUCATION REGARDING APPROACHING CONTROLLED INTERSECTIONS WHILE NOT DRIVING A MOTOR VEHICLE


(1) The department of transportation, in collaboration with the departments of education and public safety and appropriate nonprofit organizations and advocacy groups, shall produce
FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS CONCERNING LEGAL
REQUIREMENTS AND SAFE PRACTICE FOR APPROACHING CONTROLLED
INTERSECTIONS AS A PEDESTRIAN OR WHILE OPERATING A LOW-SPEED
CONVEYANCE, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 42-4-1412.5 (4)(b).

(2) THE DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES IN THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
INCLUDE IN UPDATES TO THE "COLORADO DRIVER HANDBOOK" UPDATED
INFORMATION REGARDING LEGAL REQUIREMENTS AND SAFE PRACTICES
FOR APPROACHING CONTROLLED INTERSECTIONS THAT REFLECTS CHANGES
TO PRIOR LAW MADE BY HOUSE BILL 22-1028, ENACTED IN 2022.

SECTION 5. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds,
determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.