

**First Regular Session  
Sixty-seventh General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. 09-0667.01 Duane Gall

**SENATE BILL 09-148**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Brophy, Gibbs**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Merrifield, Carroll T., Kerr A., Marostica, McNulty**

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**Senate Committees**  
Transportation

**House Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101     **CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE RULES GOVERNING THE SAFE**  
102             **INTERACTION OF BICYCLES WITH OTHER VEHICLES ON**  
103             **ROADWAYS.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not necessarily reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted.)*

Clarifies rules governing bicyclists riding 2 abreast, staying to the right-hand side of the roadway when possible, and using right-turn lanes. Specifies that a driver must allow at least 3 feet of clearance when passing a bicyclist, and creates a limited exception to the prohibition on driving left of center to allow drivers to give bicyclists extra room.

Prohibits harassment of bicyclists, with enhanced penalties for

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

harassment when perpetrated by:

- ! Driving a vehicle in a threatening manner; or
- ! Throwing an object from a moving vehicle.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** 42-4-1002, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended  
3 to read:

4 **42-4-1002. Passing oncoming vehicles.** (1) Drivers of vehicles  
5 proceeding in opposite directions shall pass each other to the right, and,  
6 upon roadways having width for not more than one lane of traffic in each  
7 direction, each driver shall give to the other at least one-half of the  
8 main-traveled portion of the roadway as nearly as possible.

9 (2) A DRIVER SHALL NOT PASS A BICYCLIST MOVING IN THE SAME  
10 DIRECTION AND IN THE SAME LANE WHEN THERE IS ONCOMING TRAFFIC  
11 UNLESS THE DRIVER CAN SIMULTANEOUSLY:

12 (a) ALLOW ONCOMING VEHICLES AT LEAST ONE-HALF OF THE  
13 MAIN-TRAVELED PORTION OF THE ROADWAY IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
14 SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION; AND

15 (b) ALLOW THE BICYCLIST AT LEAST A THREE-FOOT SEPARATION  
16 BETWEEN THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE DRIVER'S VEHICLE, INCLUDING ALL  
17 MIRRORS OR OTHER PROJECTIONS, AND THE LEFT SIDE OF THE BICYCLIST  
18 AT ALL TIMES.

19 (3) Any person who violates any provision of this section commits  
20 a class A traffic infraction.

21 **SECTION 2.** 42-4-1003 (1), Colorado Revised Statutes, is  
22 amended to read:

23 **42-4-1003. Overtaking a vehicle on the left.** (1) The following  
24 rules shall govern the overtaking and passing of vehicles proceeding in

1 the same direction, subject to the limitations, exceptions, and special rules  
2 stated in this section and sections 42-4-1004 to 42-4-1008:

3 (a) The driver of a vehicle overtaking another vehicle proceeding  
4 in the same direction shall pass to the left ~~thereof~~ OF THE VEHICLE at a  
5 safe distance and shall not again drive to the right side of the roadway  
6 until safely clear of the overtaken vehicle.

7 (b) THE DRIVER OF A VEHICLE OVERTAKING A BICYCLIST  
8 PROCEEDING IN THE SAME DIRECTION SHALL ALLOW THE BICYCLIST AT  
9 LEAST A THREE-FOOT SEPARATION BETWEEN THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE  
10 DRIVER'S VEHICLE, INCLUDING ALL MIRRORS OR OTHER PROJECTIONS, AND  
11 THE LEFT SIDE OF THE BICYCLIST AT ALL TIMES.

12 ~~(b)~~ (c) Except when overtaking and passing on the right is  
13 permitted, the driver of an overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right  
14 in favor of the overtaking vehicle on audible signal and shall not increase  
15 the speed of the driver's vehicle until completely passed by the overtaking  
16 vehicle.

17 **SECTION 3.** 42-4-1005 (4), Colorado Revised Statutes, is  
18 amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW PARAGRAPH to read:

19 **42-4-1005. Limitations on overtaking on the left.** (4) The  
20 provisions of this section shall not apply:

21 (d) TO THE DRIVER OF A VEHICLE PASSING A BICYCLIST MOVING  
22 THE SAME DIRECTION AND IN THE SAME LANE WHEN SUCH MOVEMENT CAN  
23 BE MADE IN SAFETY AND WITHOUT INTERFERING WITH, IMPEDING, OR  
24 ENDANGERING OTHER TRAFFIC LAWFULLY USING THE HIGHWAY.

25 **SECTION 4.** 42-4-1412 (5) and (6), Colorado Revised Statutes,  
26 are REPEALED AND REENACTED, WITH AMENDMENTS, to read:

27 **42-4-1412. Operation of bicycles and other human-powered**

1 **vehicles.** (5) (a) ANY PERSON OPERATING A BICYCLE UPON A ROADWAY  
2 AT LESS THAN THE NORMAL SPEED OF TRAFFIC SHALL RIDE IN THE  
3 RIGHT-HAND LANE, SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

4 (I) IF THE RIGHT-HAND LANE THEN AVAILABLE FOR TRAFFIC IS  
5 WIDE ENOUGH TO BE SAFELY SHARED WITH OVERTAKING VEHICLES, A  
6 BICYCLIST SHALL RIDE FAR ENOUGH TO THE RIGHT AS JUDGED SAFE BY THE  
7 BICYCLIST TO FACILITATE THE MOVEMENT OF SUCH OVERTAKING VEHICLES  
8 UNLESS OTHER CONDITIONS MAKE IT UNSAFE TO DO SO.

9 (II) A BICYCLIST MAY USE A LANE OTHER THAN THE RIGHT-HAND  
10 LANE WHEN:

11 (A) PREPARING FOR A LEFT TURN AT AN INTERSECTION OR INTO A  
12 PRIVATE ROADWAY OR DRIVEWAY;

13 (B) OVERTAKING A SLOWER VEHICLE; OR

14 (C) TAKING REASONABLY NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS TO AVOID  
15 HAZARDS OR ROAD CONDITIONS.

16 (III) UPON APPROACHING AN INTERSECTION WHERE RIGHT TURNS  
17 ARE PERMITTED AND THERE IS A DEDICATED RIGHT-TURN LANE, A  
18 BICYCLIST MAY RIDE ON THE LEFT-HAND PORTION OF THE DEDICATED  
19 RIGHT-TURN LANE EVEN IF THE BICYCLIST DOES NOT INTEND TO TURN  
20 RIGHT.

21 (b) A BICYCLIST SHALL NOT BE EXPECTED OR REQUIRED TO:

22 (I) RIDE OVER OR THROUGH HAZARDS AT THE EDGE OF A  
23 ROADWAY, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO FIXED OR MOVING OBJECTS,  
24 PARKED OR MOVING VEHICLES, BICYCLES, PEDESTRIANS, ANIMALS,  
25 SURFACE HAZARDS, OR NARROW LANES; OR

26 (II) RIDE WITHOUT A REASONABLE SAFETY MARGIN ON THE  
27 RIGHT-HAND SIDE OF THE ROADWAY.

1 (c) A PERSON OPERATING A BICYCLE UPON A ONE-WAY ROADWAY  
2 WITH TWO OR MORE MARKED TRAFFIC LANES MAY RIDE AS NEAR TO THE  
3 LEFT-HAND CURB OR EDGE OF SUCH ROADWAY AS JUDGED SAFE BY THE  
4 BICYCLIST, SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

5 (I) IF THE LEFT-HAND LANE THEN AVAILABLE FOR TRAFFIC IS WIDE  
6 ENOUGH TO BE SAFELY SHARED WITH OVERTAKING VEHICLES, A BICYCLIST  
7 SHALL RIDE FAR ENOUGH TO THE LEFT AS JUDGED SAFE BY THE BICYCLIST  
8 TO FACILITATE THE MOVEMENT OF SUCH OVERTAKING VEHICLES UNLESS  
9 OTHER CONDITIONS MAKE IT UNSAFE TO DO SO.

10 (II) A BICYCLIST SHALL NOT BE EXPECTED OR REQUIRED TO:

11 (A) RIDE OVER OR THROUGH HAZARDS AT THE EDGE OF A  
12 ROADWAY, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO FIXED OR MOVING OBJECTS,  
13 PARKED OR MOVING VEHICLES, BICYCLES, PEDESTRIANS, ANIMALS,  
14 SURFACE HAZARDS, OR NARROW LANES; OR

15 (B) RIDE WITHOUT A REASONABLE SAFETY MARGIN ON THE  
16 LEFT-HAND SIDE OF THE ROADWAY.

17 (6) (a) PERSONS RIDING BICYCLES UPON A ROADWAY SHALL NOT  
18 RIDE MORE THAN TWO ABREAST EXCEPT ON PATHS OR SHOULDERS.

19 (b) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (c) OF THIS  
20 SUBSECTION (6), PERSONS RIDING BICYCLES TWO ABREAST SHALL NOT  
21 IMPEDE THE NORMAL AND REASONABLE MOVEMENT OF TRAFFIC AND, ON  
22 A LANED ROADWAY, SHALL RIDE WITHIN A SINGLE LANE. THIS PARAGRAPH  
23 (b) SHALL NOT BE CONSTRUED TO PROHIBIT ONE BICYCLIST FROM PASSING  
24 ONE OR MORE OTHER BICYCLISTS.

25 (c) RIDING TWO ABREAST SHALL NOT BE DEEMED TO IMPEDE THE  
26 NORMAL AND REASONABLE MOVEMENT OF TRAFFIC UNDER  
27 CIRCUMSTANCES THAT INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, THE

1 FOLLOWING:

2 (I) THERE IS NO CONFLICTING TRAFFIC AT THE TIME; OR

3 (II) THE LANE IS TOO NARROW FOR ONE BICYCLE AND ONE MOTOR  
4 VEHICLE TO TRAVEL SAFELY SIDE-BY-SIDE WITHIN THE LANE.

5 **SECTION 5.** Part 2 of article 3 of title 18, Colorado Revised  
6 Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION to  
7 read:

8 **18-3-210. Vehicular harassment - harassment of bicyclist.**

9 (1) A PERSON WHO HARASSES, TAUNTS, OR MALICIOUSLY THROWS AN  
10 OBJECT AT OR IN THE DIRECTION OF A BICYCLIST COMMITS HARASSMENT  
11 OF A BICYCLIST, WHICH IS A CLASS 3 MISDEMEANOR; EXCEPT THAT, IF THE  
12 PERSON THROWS THE OBJECT FROM A MOVING VEHICLE, THE OFFENSE IS A  
13 CLASS 1 MISDEMEANOR.

14 (2) A PERSON WHO INTENTIONALLY DRIVES A VEHICLE  
15 UNNECESSARILY CLOSE TO A BICYCLIST OR IN A THREATENING OR  
16 DANGEROUS MANNER TOWARD OR NEAR A BICYCLIST COMMITS VEHICULAR  
17 HARASSMENT, WHICH IS A CLASS 1 MISDEMEANOR.

18 **SECTION 6. Act subject to petition - effective date -**  
19 **applicability.** (1) This act shall take effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day  
20 following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment  
21 of the general assembly that is allowed for submitting a referendum  
22 petition pursuant to article V, section 1 (3) of the state constitution,  
23 (August 4, 2009, if adjournment sine die is on May 6, 2009); except that,  
24 if a referendum petition is filed against this act or an item, section, or part  
25 of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part, if  
26 approved by the people, shall take effect on the date of the official  
27 declaration of the vote thereon by proclamation of the governor.

1           (2) The provisions of this act shall apply to offenses committed on  
2    or after the applicable effective date of this act.