



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

Committee Bill No. 502

LCO No. 5278



Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION

Introduced by:
(TRA)

AN ACT CONCERNING BICYCLE SAFETY.

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

1 Section 1. Section 14-234 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

3 (a) The Office of the State Traffic Administration may determine
4 those portions of any state highway where overtaking and passing or
5 driving to the left of the highway would be especially hazardous and
6 may by appropriate signs or markings on the highway indicate the
7 beginning and end of such zones. A local traffic authority, as defined
8 in section 14-297, may, in accordance with standards approved by the
9 Office of the State Traffic Administration, determine and designate
10 such no-passing zones on highways under its jurisdiction. When such
11 signs or markings are in place and clearly visible to an ordinarily
12 observant person, each driver of a vehicle shall obey the directions
13 thereof. [Violation] Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section,
14 a violation of the provisions of this section shall be an infraction.

15 (b) The driver of a vehicle may drive to the left of a highway in a no-
16 passing zone when such driver is overtaking and passing a pedestrian,

17 bicycle, tractor or other slow-moving vehicle, provided such
18 overtaking and passing may be made in safety and without interfering
19 with or endangering traffic on the highway.

20 Sec. 2. Section 14-251 of the general statutes is repealed and the
21 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

22 No vehicle shall be permitted to remain stationary within ten feet of
23 any fire hydrant, or upon the traveled portion of any highway except
24 upon the right-hand side of such highway in the direction in which
25 such vehicle is headed; and, if such highway is curbed, such vehicle
26 shall be so placed that its right-hand wheels, when stationary, shall,
27 when safety will permit, be within a distance of twelve inches from the
28 curb, except, if a bikeway, as defined in section 13a-153f, is in place
29 between the parking lane and the curb, such vehicle shall be so placed
30 that its right-hand wheels, when stationary, shall, when safety will
31 permit, be not less than twelve inches from the edge of such bike lane.

32 No vehicle shall be permitted to remain parked within twenty-five feet
33 of an intersection or a marked crosswalk thereat, or within twenty-five
34 feet of a stop sign caused to be erected by the traffic authority in
35 accordance with the provisions of section 14-301. No vehicle shall be
36 permitted to remain stationary upon the traveled portion of any
37 highway at any curve or turn or at the top of any grade where a clear
38 view of such vehicle may not be had from a distance of at least one
39 hundred and fifty feet in either direction. The Commissioner of
40 Transportation may post signs upon any highway at any place where
41 the keeping of a vehicle stationary is dangerous to traffic, and the
42 keeping of any vehicle stationary contrary to the directions of such
43 signs shall be a violation of this section. No vehicle shall be permitted
44 to remain stationary upon the traveled portion of any highway within
45 fifty feet of the point where another vehicle, which had previously
46 stopped, continues to remain stationary on the opposite side of the
47 traveled portion of the same highway. No vehicle shall be permitted to
48 remain stationary within the limits of a public highway in such a
49 manner as to constitute a traffic hazard or obstruct the free movement

50 of traffic thereon, provided a vehicle which has become disabled to
51 such an extent that it is impossible or impracticable to remove it may
52 be permitted to so remain for a reasonable time for the purpose of
53 making repairs thereto or of obtaining sufficient assistance to remove
54 it. Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to emergency
55 vehicles and to maintenance vehicles displaying flashing lights or to
56 prohibit a vehicle from stopping, or being held stationary by any
57 officer, in an emergency to avoid accident or to give a right-of-way to
58 any vehicle or pedestrian as provided in this chapter, or from stopping
59 on any highway within the limits of an incorporated city, town or
60 borough where the parking of vehicles is regulated by local
61 ordinances. Violation of any provision of this section shall be an
62 infraction.

63 Sec. 3. Section 14-286b of the general statutes is repealed and the
64 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

65 (a) [Every person operating a bicycle upon a roadway shall ride as
66 near to the right side of the roadway as practicable, except when (1)
67 making a left turn pursuant to subsection (b) of section 14-241, (2)
68 overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same
69 direction, (3) overtaking and passing pedestrians, parked vehicles,
70 animals or obstructions on the right side of the highway, and (4) when
71 the right side of the highway is closed to traffic while under
72 construction or repair.] Any person operating a bicycle upon a
73 roadway at less than the normal speed of traffic shall ride as close to
74 the right side of the roadway as is safe, as judged by the bicyclist,
75 except when:

76 (1) Overtaking or passing another vehicle proceeding in the same
77 direction;

78 (2) Preparing for a left turn at an intersection or into a private road
79 or driveway;

80 (3) Reasonably necessary to avoid conditions, including, but not

81 limited to, fixed or moving objects, parked or moving vehicles,
82 bicycles, pedestrians, animals, surface hazards or lanes that are too
83 narrow for a bicycle and a motor vehicle to travel safely side by side
84 within such lanes;

85 (4) Approaching an intersection where right turns are permitted and
86 there is a dedicated right turn lane, in which case a bicyclist may ride
87 on the left-hand side of such dedicated lane, even if the bicyclist does
88 not intend to turn right;

89 (5) Riding on a roadway designated for one-way traffic, when the
90 bicyclist may ride as near to the left-hand curb or edge of such
91 roadway as judged safe by the bicyclist; or

92 (6) Riding on parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of
93 bicycles, including, but not limited to, counter-flow bicycle lanes, left-
94 handed cycle tracks on one-way streets and two-way cycle tracks.

95 (b) Persons riding bicycles upon a roadway shall not ride more than
96 two abreast except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the
97 exclusive use of bicycles. Persons riding two abreast, as provided in
98 this subsection, shall not impede the normal and reasonable movement
99 of traffic, and, on a laned roadway, shall ride within a single lane.

100 (c) No person riding upon any bicycle, motor-driven cycle, roller
101 skates, skis, sled, skateboard, coaster, toy vehicle or any other vehicle
102 not designed or intended to be towed shall attach the same or such
103 person to any vehicle moving or about to move on a public roadway
104 nor shall the operator of such vehicle knowingly permit any person
105 riding a bicycle, motor-driven cycle, roller skates, skis, skateboard,
106 coaster, sled, toy vehicle or any other vehicle not designed or intended
107 to be towed to attach the same or such person to such vehicle so
108 operated or about to be operated, provided any person operating a
109 bicycle solely by foot or hand power may attach a bicycle trailer or
110 semitrailer thereto, provided such trailer or semitrailer is designed for
111 such attachment.

112 (d) No person operating a bicycle, as defined by section 14-286,
113 upon a roadway, path or part of roadway set aside for exclusive use of
114 bicycles shall carry on such bicycle a passenger unless such bicycle is
115 equipped or designed to carry passengers, provided any person who
116 has attained the age of eighteen years may carry any child while such
117 person is operating a bicycle propelled solely by foot or hand power,
118 provided such child is securely attached to his person by means of a
119 back pack, sling or other similar device. The term "child", as used in
120 this subsection, means any person who has not attained the age of four
121 years.

122 (e) No person operating a bicycle, as defined by section 14-286, shall
123 carry any package, bundle or other article which prevents such person
124 from using both hands in the operation of such bicycle. Each person
125 operating such bicycle shall keep at least one hand on the handlebars
126 thereof when such bicycle is in motion.

127 (f) Violation of any provision of this section shall be an infraction.

128 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) The Commissioner of
129 Transportation, when updating design standards for roads in the state,
130 shall include, as appropriate, the standards contained within the
131 National Association of City Transportation Officials Urban Bikeway
132 Design Guide and the National Association of City Transportation
133 Officials Urban Street Design Guide.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	14-234
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	14-251
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	14-286b
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To improve bicyclist safety and transportation options in Connecticut.

[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.]

Co-Sponsors: SEN. BYE, 5th Dist.; REP. LEMAR, 96th Dist.
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