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S.275

Introduced by Senator Racine of Chittenden District

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Motor vehicles; bicycles; three-foot clearance

Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to require the operator of a motor vehicle to leave at least a three-foot clearance when passing a bicyclist.

AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES PASSING BICYCLISTS  
ON HIGHWAYS

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 1033 is amended to read:

§ 1033. PASSING MOTOR VEHICLES AND BICYCLES ON THE LEFT

(a) Vehicles proceeding in the same direction may be overtaken and passed only as follows:

(1) The driver of a vehicle overtaking another vehicle proceeding in the same direction may pass to its left at a safe distance, and when so doing shall exercise due care, may not pass to the left of the center of the highway unless the way ahead is clear of approaching traffic, and shall not again drive to the right side of the roadway until safely clear of the overtaken vehicle.

1           (2) Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the  
2 driver of an overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of the  
3 overtaking vehicle on audible signal and shall not increase the speed of the  
4 driver's vehicle until completely passed by the overtaking vehicle.

5           (b) An operator of a motor vehicle that is passing a bicyclist proceeding in  
6 the same direction shall exercise due care by leaving a distance between the  
7 motor vehicle and the bicyclist of not less than three feet while the motor  
8 vehicle is passing the bicyclist.