

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

Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 14-286b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective on passage*):

Sec. 14-286b. Operation of bicycles; attaching to moving vehicle prohibited; carrying of passengers, packages, bundles and other articles restricted; at least one hand to be kept on handle bars. Operators of roller skates, sleds, skateboards, coasters and toy vehicles prohibited from attaching to moving vehicle. Penalty. [(a) Every person operating a bicycle upon a roadway shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable, except when (1) making a left turn pursuant to subsection (b) of section 14-241, (2) overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction, (3) overtaking and passing pedestrians, parked vehicles, animals or obstructions on the right side of the highway, and (4) when the right side of the highway is closed to traffic while under construction or repair.]

(a) Any person operating a bicycle upon a roadway at less than the normal speed of traffic shall ride as close to the right side of the roadway as is safe as judged by the bicyclist, except when:

1. Overtaking or passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction;
2. Preparing for a left turn at an intersection or into a private road or driveway;
3. Reasonably necessary to avoid conditions including but not limited to: fixed or moving objects; parked or moving vehicles; bicycles; pedestrians; animals; surface hazards; or lanes that are too narrow for a bicycle and a motor vehicle to travel safely side by side within the lane;
4. Riding in the right-turn-only lane; or when
5. Riding on parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles, including but not limited to counter flow bike lanes, left handed cycle tracks on one-way streets, and two-way cycle tracks.

Statement of Purpose:

To eliminate the ambiguity caused by use of the word “practicable;” to adopt exceptions of section 11-1205 of the Uniform Vehicle Code, as recommended by the League of American Bicyclists; to clarify that cyclists may use the full lane when reasonably necessary to avoid unsafe conditions inherent with narrow or substandard width lanes or any other unsafe condition; and to update the statute to accommodate the use of modern bikeway designs. The proposed language also eliminates the redundancy of “bicycle or vehicle” since the definition of a vehicle includes a bicycle.

[Note: FHWA guidance on cycle tracks supposed to be forthcoming in near future]