

HB 711 -- Operation of Motor Vehicles

Sponsor: Davis (19)

This bill makes numerous revisions in the law relating to operating a motor vehicle. The bill:

(1) Prohibits the obstruction of a bicycle lane with a motor vehicle. Motor vehicles may be driven in a bicycle lane only in certain circumstances;

(2) Requires a high degree of care be taken to avoid colliding with any pedestrian, bicyclist, or person operating a motorcycle and to exercise proper precaution upon observing any child or any obviously confused, incapacitated, or intoxicated person;

(3) Allows the governing body of a county or municipality to establish a speed limit within a school zone lower than 20 miles per hour and to extend the hours in which the school zone speed limit is in force if it finds, in conjunction with the school board, that a lower limit or extended hours are needed to promote public safety;

(4) Makes any person operating a motor vehicle who intentionally, recklessly, or negligently collides with a pedestrian, bicyclist, or motorcyclist liable for liquidated compensatory damages of \$500 or \$1,000 (for persons having six or more points on a driver's license) or actual damages, whichever are greater, plus reasonable attorney fees and court costs unless the court determines that the motorist was not at fault; and

(5) Requires an assessment of 12 points on a driver's license when the court determines a person has intentionally, recklessly, or negligently collided with a pedestrian, bicyclist, or motorcyclist thereby causing personal injury and the operator has:

(a) Six or more points on a license;

(b) A prior conviction for an intoxication-related offense; or

(c) Previously caused an injury requiring hospitalization to a pedestrian, bicyclist, or motorcyclist.