

HB 632 -- Bicycle Safety

Sponsor: Sutherland

This bill changes the laws regarding bicycle safety. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Revises the definition of "bicycle" to include vehicles propelled by human power having two tandem or parallel wheels and one or two forward or rear wheels, all of which are more than 14 inches in diameter;
- (2) Prohibits blocking or obstructing a designated bicycle lane with a parked or standing motor vehicle or other stationary object;
- (3) Establishes standards for motorists crossing bicycle lanes;
- (4) Defines a "designated bicycle lane" as a portion of the roadway or highway which has been designated by the governing body having jurisdiction over the roadway by striping with signing or pavement markings for the preferential or exclusive use of bicycles;
- (5) Requires a motorist when passing a bicyclist or pedestrian to leave a safe distance, not less than three feet, between the motor vehicle and the bicycle or pedestrian. Failure to comply with this provision is an infraction unless an accident occurs, making it is a class C misdemeanor;
- (6) Provides that bicycles operating at less than the posted speed limit or slower than the flow of traffic may be operated on the shoulder adjacent to the roadway; and
- (7) Provides that a bicyclist must signal in the same manner as other vehicles except that continuously signaling by hand and arm is not required if the hand is needed for the control or operation of the bicycle.