

HOUSE BILL NO. 68

INTRODUCED BY R. HAMILTON

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ALLOWING THE OPERATOR OF A BICYCLE TO TURN OR PROCEED THROUGH CERTAIN INTERSECTIONS WITHOUT STOPPING; PROVIDING THAT HAND AND ARM SIGNALS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO BE GIVEN BY A PERSON OPERATING A BICYCLE IF THE HAND IS NEEDED FOR OPERATION OF THE BICYCLE; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 61-8-337, 61-8-338, AND 61-8-344, MCA."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 61-8-337, MCA, is amended to read:

"61-8-337. Signals by hand and arm or signal device. (1) ~~Any A~~ stop or turn signal when required ~~herein shall~~ in this section must be given either by means of the hand and arm or by a signal lamp or lamps, except as otherwise provided in 61-8-338(2)(b) and subsection (2) of this section.

(2) ~~Any A~~ motor vehicle in use on a highway ~~shall must~~ be equipped with and a required signal ~~shall must~~ be given by a signal lamp or lamps when the distance from the center of the top of the steering post to the left outside limit of the body, cab, or load of ~~such the~~ motor vehicle exceeds 24 inches or when the distance from the center of the top of the steering post to the rear limit of the body or load ~~thereof of the motor vehicle~~ exceeds 14 feet. The latter measurement ~~shall apply to any~~ applies to a single vehicle, ~~also and~~ and to any combination of vehicles."

Section 2. Section 61-8-338, MCA, is amended to read:

"61-8-338. Method of giving hand-and-arm signals. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), all signals required in this part that are given by hand and arm must be given from the left side of the vehicle by the operator of the vehicle in the following manner:

- (a) For a left turn, the operator's hand and arm must be extended horizontally.
 - (b) For a right turn, the operator's hand and forearm must be extended upward.
 - (c) For a stop or a decrease in speed, the operator's hand and arm must be extended downward.
- (2) (a) The person operating a bicycle may signal a right turn by extending the right hand and arm



1 horizontally.

2 (b) Hand and arm signals need not be given by a person operating a bicycle if the hand is needed in the
3 control or operation of the bicycle."

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5 **Section 3.** Section 61-8-344, MCA, is amended to read:

6 **"61-8-344. Vehicles to stop at stop signs -- exception for bicycles.** (1) The department of
7 transportation and local authorities in their respective jurisdictions may designate through highways and erect
8 stop signs at specified entrances to these highways or may designate an intersection as a stop intersection and
9 erect stop signs at one or more entrances to that intersection.

10 (2) The stop sign and its placement must conform to the sign manual adopted by the department of
11 transportation.

12 (3) (a) An Except as provided in subsection (3)(b), an operator of a vehicle approaching a stop sign shall
13 stop before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection or, in the event there is no crosswalk, the
14 operator shall stop at a clearly marked stop line. If there is not a clearly marked stop line, the operator shall stop
15 at the point nearest the intersecting roadway where the operator has a view of approaching traffic on the
16 intersecting roadway before entering the intersection except when directed to proceed by a police officer, highway
17 patrol officer, or traffic control signal.

18 (b) A person operating a bicycle approaching a stop sign shall slow down and, if required for safety, stop
19 before entering the intersection. After slowing to a reasonable speed or stopping, the person shall yield the
20 right-of-way to any vehicle in the intersection or approaching another highway close enough to constitute an
21 immediate hazard. After slowing to a reasonable speed and yielding the right-of-way, a person operating a bicycle
22 may proceed through the intersection without stopping."

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