

FINAL BILL REPORT

HB 2333

C 85 L 00

Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Clarifying rights and responsibilities of bicyclists.

Sponsors: Representatives Schual-Berke, Dickerson, Carlson, Hurst and D. Sommers.

House Committee on Transportation

Senate Committee on Transportation

Background:

No statute identifies the legal status of bicyclists when they are on a sidewalk or in a crosswalk. In June 1999, the Washington Supreme Court found that the protection afforded pedestrians in crosswalks, marked or unmarked, was extended to bicyclists when they are within a crosswalk. There is also no law that provides guidance to law enforcement when confronting a bicycle rider who is impaired by alcohol or drugs.

Summary of Bill:

The rights and duties of bicyclists are affected in two ways. First, the holding in the 1999 Washington State Supreme Court case is codified. Bicyclists in a crosswalk have all the rights and duties of pedestrians; drivers of vehicles must yield the right-of-way. Bicyclists also have all the rights and duties of pedestrians on sidewalks. However, bicyclists must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians when they are in crosswalks or on sidewalks.

Second, law enforcement officers may transport bicyclists impaired by alcohol or any drug to a safe place or release the rider to a competent person. If assistance is refused by the rider, no lawsuit may later be brought against a governmental agency for acts resulting from the refusal. Procedures are established under which an officer may impound an impaired rider's bicycle.

Votes on Final Passage:

House 92 5

Senate 39 6

Effective: June 8, 2000