

1 AN ACT Relating to pedestrians crossing and moving along  
2 roadways; amending RCW 46.61.050, 46.61.055, 46.61.060, 46.61.230,  
3 46.61.235, 46.61.240, and 46.61.250; adding a new section to chapter  
4 46.61 RCW; creating new sections; and providing an expiration date.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.61.050 and 2020 c 66 s 1 are each amended to read  
7 as follows:

8 (1)(a) The driver of any vehicle, a person operating a bicycle,  
9 and every pedestrian shall obey, and the operation of every personal  
10 delivery device shall follow, the instructions of any official  
11 traffic control device applicable thereto, and as specified in this  
12 chapter, placed in accordance with the provisions of this chapter,  
13 unless otherwise directed by a traffic or police officer, subject to  
14 the exception granted the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle  
15 in this chapter.

16 (b) A police officer shall not stop a pedestrian for a violation  
17 of this subsection unless the pedestrian is in violation of RCW  
18 46.61.235(2). This subsection (1)(b) does not relieve a pedestrian  
19 from the duty of exercising due care for the pedestrian's safety or  
20 relieve a driver of a vehicle from the duty of exercising due care  
21 for the safety of any pedestrian within the roadway.

1 (2) No provision of this chapter for which official traffic  
2 control devices are required shall be enforced against an alleged  
3 violator if at the time and place of the alleged violation an  
4 official device is not in proper position and sufficiently legible or  
5 visible to be seen by an ordinarily observant person. Whenever a  
6 particular section does not state that official traffic control  
7 devices are required, such section shall be effective even though no  
8 devices are erected or in place.

9 (3) Whenever official traffic control devices are placed in  
10 position approximately conforming to the requirements of this  
11 chapter, such devices shall be presumed to have been so placed by the  
12 official act or direction of lawful authority, unless the contrary  
13 shall be established by competent evidence.

14 (4) Any official traffic control device placed pursuant to the  
15 provisions of this chapter and purporting to conform to the lawful  
16 requirements pertaining to such devices shall be presumed to comply  
17 with the requirements of this chapter, unless the contrary shall be  
18 established by competent evidence.

19 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.61.055 and 2019 c 214 s 10 are each amended to  
20 read as follows:

21 Whenever traffic is controlled by traffic control signals  
22 exhibiting different colored lights, or colored lighted arrows,  
23 successively one at a time or in combination, only the colors green,  
24 red and yellow shall be used, except for special pedestrian signals  
25 carrying a word or legend, and said lights shall indicate and apply  
26 to drivers of vehicles, pedestrians, and personal delivery devices,  
27 as follows:

28 (1) Green indication

29 (a) Vehicle operators facing a circular green signal may proceed  
30 straight through or turn right or left unless a sign at such place  
31 prohibits either such turn. Vehicle operators turning right or left  
32 shall stop to allow other vehicles lawfully within the intersection  
33 control area to complete their movements. Vehicle operators turning  
34 right or left shall also stop for pedestrians who or personal  
35 delivery devices that are lawfully within the intersection control  
36 area as required by RCW 46.61.235(1).

37 (b) Vehicle operators facing a green arrow signal, shown alone or  
38 in combination with another indication, may enter the intersection  
39 control area only to make the movement indicated by such arrow, or

1 such other movement as is permitted by other indications shown at the  
2 same time. Vehicle operators shall stop to allow other vehicles  
3 lawfully within the intersection control area to complete their  
4 movements. Vehicle operators shall also stop for pedestrians who or  
5 personal delivery devices that are lawfully within the intersection  
6 control area as required by RCW 46.61.235(1).

7 (c) Unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian control signal, as  
8 provided in RCW 46.61.060 (~~as now or hereafter amended~~),  
9 pedestrians or personal delivery devices facing any green signal,  
10 except when the sole green signal is a turn arrow, may proceed across  
11 the roadway within any marked or unmarked crosswalk.

12 (2) Steady yellow indication

13 (a) Vehicle operators facing a steady circular yellow or yellow  
14 arrow signal are thereby warned that the related green movement is  
15 being terminated or that a red indication will be exhibited  
16 immediately thereafter when vehicular traffic shall not enter the  
17 intersection. Vehicle operators shall stop for pedestrians who or  
18 personal delivery devices that are lawfully within the intersection  
19 control area as required by RCW 46.61.235(1).

20 (b) (i) Pedestrians or personal delivery devices facing a steady  
21 circular yellow or yellow arrow signal, unless otherwise directed by  
22 a pedestrian control signal as provided in RCW 46.61.060 shall not  
23 enter the roadway.

24 (ii) A police officer shall not stop a pedestrian for a violation  
25 of (b) (i) of this subsection unless the pedestrian is in violation of  
26 RCW 46.61.235(2). This subsection (2)(b)(ii) does not relieve a  
27 pedestrian from the duty of exercising due care for the pedestrian's  
28 safety or relieve a driver of a vehicle from the duty of exercising  
29 due care for the safety of any pedestrian within the roadway.

30 (3) Steady red indication

31 (a) Vehicle operators facing a steady circular red signal alone  
32 shall stop at a clearly marked stop line, but if none, before  
33 entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection or, if  
34 none, then before entering the intersection control area and shall  
35 remain standing until an indication to proceed is shown. However, the  
36 vehicle operators facing a steady circular red signal may, after  
37 stopping proceed to make a right turn from a one-way or two-way  
38 street into a two-way street or into a one-way street carrying  
39 traffic in the direction of the right turn; or a left turn from a  
40 one-way or two-way street into a one-way street carrying traffic in

1 the direction of the left turn; unless a sign posted by competent  
2 authority prohibits such movement. Vehicle operators planning to make  
3 such turns shall remain stopped to allow other vehicles lawfully  
4 within or approaching the intersection control area to complete their  
5 movements. Vehicle operators planning to make such turns shall also  
6 remain stopped for pedestrians who or personal delivery devices that  
7 are lawfully within the intersection control area as required by RCW  
8 46.61.235(1).

9 (b) (i) Unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian control signal  
10 as provided in RCW 46.61.060 (~~as now or hereafter amended~~),  
11 pedestrians or personal delivery devices facing a steady circular red  
12 signal alone shall not enter the roadway.

13 (ii) A police officer shall not stop a pedestrian for a violation  
14 of (b) (i) of this subsection unless the pedestrian is in violation of  
15 RCW 46.61.235(2). This subsection (3)(b)(ii) does not relieve a  
16 pedestrian from the duty of exercising due care for the pedestrian's  
17 safety or relieve a driver of a vehicle from the duty of exercising  
18 due care for the safety of any pedestrian within the roadway.

19 (c) Vehicle operators facing a steady red arrow indication may  
20 not enter the intersection control area to make the movement  
21 indicated by such arrow, and unless entering the intersection control  
22 area to make such other movement as is permitted by other indications  
23 shown at the same time, shall stop at a clearly marked stop line, but  
24 if none, before entering a crosswalk on the near side of the  
25 intersection control area, or if none, then before entering the  
26 intersection control area and shall remain standing until an  
27 indication to make the movement indicated by such arrow is shown.  
28 However, the vehicle operators facing a steady red arrow indication  
29 may, after stopping proceed to make a right turn from a one-way or  
30 two-way street into a two-way street or into a one-way street  
31 carrying traffic in the direction of the right turn; or a left turn  
32 from a one-way street or two-way street into a one-way street  
33 carrying traffic in the direction of the left turn; unless a sign  
34 posted by competent authority prohibits such movement. Vehicle  
35 operators planning to make such turns shall remain stopped to allow  
36 other vehicles lawfully within or approaching the intersection  
37 control area to complete their movements. Vehicle operators planning  
38 to make such turns shall also remain stopped for pedestrians who or  
39 personal delivery devices that are lawfully within the intersection  
40 control area as required by RCW 46.61.235(1).

1 (d) (i) Unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian signal,  
2 pedestrians or personal delivery devices facing a steady red arrow  
3 signal indication shall not enter the roadway.

4 (ii) A police officer shall not stop a pedestrian for a violation  
5 of (d) (i) of this subsection unless the pedestrian is in violation of  
6 RCW 46.61.235(2). This subsection (3)(d)(ii) does not relieve a  
7 pedestrian from the duty of exercising due care for the pedestrian's  
8 safety or relieve a driver of a vehicle from the duty of exercising  
9 due care for the safety of any pedestrian within the roadway.

10 (4) If an official traffic control signal is erected and  
11 maintained at a place other than an intersection, the provisions of  
12 this section shall be applicable except as to those provisions which  
13 by their nature can have no application. Any stop required shall be  
14 made at a sign or marking on the pavement indicating where the stop  
15 shall be made, but in the absence of any such sign or marking the  
16 stop shall be made at the signal.

17 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.61.060 and 2019 c 214 s 11 are each amended to  
18 read as follows:

19 Whenever pedestrian control signals exhibiting the words "Walk"  
20 or the walking person symbol or "Don't Walk" or the hand symbol are  
21 operating, the signals shall indicate as follows:

22 (1) WALK or walking person symbol—Pedestrians or personal  
23 delivery devices facing such signal may cross the roadway in the  
24 direction of the signal. Vehicle operators shall stop for pedestrians  
25 who or personal delivery devices that are lawfully moving within the  
26 intersection control area on such signal as required by RCW  
27 46.61.235(1).

28 (2) (a) Steady or flashing DON'T WALK or hand symbol—Pedestrians  
29 or personal delivery devices facing such signal shall not enter the  
30 roadway.

31 (b) A police officer shall not stop a pedestrian for a violation  
32 of (a) of this subsection unless the pedestrian is in violation of  
33 RCW 46.61.235(2). This subsection does not relieve a pedestrian from  
34 the duty of exercising due care for the pedestrian's safety or  
35 relieve a driver of a vehicle from the duty of exercising due care  
36 for the safety of any pedestrian within the roadway.

37 (c) Vehicle operators shall stop for pedestrians who or personal  
38 delivery devices that have begun to cross the roadway before the  
39 display of either signal as required by RCW 46.61.235(1).

1 (3) Pedestrian control signals having the "Wait" legend in use on  
2 August 6, 1965, shall be deemed authorized signals and shall indicate  
3 the same as the "Don't Walk" legend. Whenever such pedestrian control  
4 signals are replaced the legend "Wait" shall be replaced by the  
5 legend "Don't Walk" or the hand symbol.

6 **Sec. 4.** RCW 46.61.230 and 1965 ex.s. c 155 s 33 are each amended  
7 to read as follows:

8 Pedestrians shall be subject to traffic-control signals at  
9 intersections as provided in RCW 46.61.060, and at all other places  
10 pedestrians shall be accorded the privileges and shall be subject to  
11 the restrictions stated in this chapter. A police officer shall not  
12 stop a pedestrian for a violation of this section unless the  
13 pedestrian is in violation of RCW 46.61.235(2). This section does not  
14 relieve a pedestrian from the duty of exercising due care for the  
15 pedestrian's safety or relieve a driver of a vehicle from the duty of  
16 exercising due care for the safety of any pedestrian within the  
17 roadway.

18 **Sec. 5.** RCW 46.61.235 and 2019 c 214 s 12 are each amended to  
19 read as follows:

20 (1) The operator of an approaching vehicle shall stop and remain  
21 stopped to allow a pedestrian, bicycle, or personal delivery device  
22 to cross the roadway within an unmarked or marked crosswalk when the  
23 pedestrian, bicycle, or personal delivery device is upon or within  
24 one lane of the half of the roadway upon which the vehicle is  
25 traveling or onto which it is turning. For purposes of this section  
26 "half of the roadway" means all traffic lanes carrying traffic in one  
27 direction of travel, and includes the entire width of a one-way  
28 roadway.

29 (2) No pedestrian, bicycle, or personal delivery device shall  
30 suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk, run, or  
31 otherwise move into the path of a vehicle (~~which~~) or municipal  
32 transit vehicle that is so close that it is impossible for the driver  
33 or operator to stop.

34 (3) Subsection (1) of this section does not apply under the  
35 conditions stated in RCW 46.61.240(2).

36 (4) Whenever any vehicle is stopped at a marked crosswalk or at  
37 any unmarked crosswalk at an intersection to permit a pedestrian,  
38 bicycle, or personal delivery device to cross the roadway, the driver

1 of any other vehicle approaching from the rear shall not overtake and  
2 pass such stopped vehicle.

3 (5) (a) If a person is found to have committed an infraction under  
4 this section within a school, playground, or crosswalk speed zone  
5 created under RCW 46.61.440, the person must be assessed a monetary  
6 penalty equal to twice the penalty assessed under RCW 46.63.110. The  
7 penalty may not be waived, reduced, or suspended.

8 (b) Fifty percent of the moneys collected under this subsection  
9 must be deposited into the school zone safety account.

10 **Sec. 6.** RCW 46.61.240 and 2019 c 214 s 13 are each amended to  
11 read as follows:

12 (1) Every pedestrian or personal delivery device crossing a  
13 roadway at any point other than within a marked crosswalk or within  
14 an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection shall yield the right-of-way  
15 to all vehicles upon the roadway.

16 (2) Where curb ramps exist at or adjacent to intersections or at  
17 marked crosswalks in other locations, persons with disabilities or  
18 personal delivery devices may enter the roadway from the curb ramps  
19 and cross the roadway within or as closely as practicable to the  
20 crosswalk. All other pedestrian rights and duties as defined  
21 elsewhere in this chapter remain applicable.

22 (3) Any pedestrian crossing a roadway at a point where a  
23 pedestrian tunnel or overhead pedestrian crossing has been provided  
24 shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles upon the roadway.

25 (4) Between adjacent intersections at which traffic-control  
26 signals are in operation pedestrians shall not cross at any place  
27 except in a marked crosswalk.

28 (5) No pedestrian or personal delivery device shall cross a  
29 roadway intersection diagonally unless authorized by official  
30 traffic-control devices; and, when authorized to cross diagonally,  
31 pedestrians and personal delivery devices shall cross only in  
32 accordance with the official traffic-control devices pertaining to  
33 such crossing movements.

34 (6) No pedestrian or personal delivery device shall cross a  
35 roadway at an unmarked crosswalk where an official sign prohibits  
36 such crossing.

37 (7) A police officer shall not stop a pedestrian for a violation  
38 of subsections (1) through (5) of this section unless the pedestrian  
39 is in violation of RCW 46.61.235(2). This subsection does not relieve

1 a pedestrian from the duty of exercising due care for the  
2 pedestrian's safety or relieve a driver of a vehicle from the duty of  
3 exercising due care for the safety of any pedestrian within the  
4 roadway.

5 **Sec. 7.** RCW 46.61.250 and 2022 c 235 s 3 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (1) Where sidewalks are provided and are accessible, it is  
8 unlawful for any pedestrian to walk or otherwise move along and upon  
9 an adjacent roadway. Where sidewalks are provided but wheelchair  
10 access is not available, persons with disabilities who require such  
11 access may walk or otherwise move along and upon an adjacent roadway  
12 until they reach an access point in the sidewalk.

13 (2) Where sidewalks are not provided or are inaccessible, a  
14 pedestrian walking or otherwise moving along and upon a highway, and  
15 any personal delivery device moving along and upon a highway, shall:

16 (a) When shoulders are provided and are accessible, walk or move  
17 on the shoulder of the roadway as far as is practicable from the edge  
18 of the roadway (~~, facing traffic when a shoulder is available in this~~  
19 ~~direction)); or~~

20 (b) When shoulders are not provided or are inaccessible, walk or  
21 move as near as is practicable to the outside edge of the roadway  
22 (~~facing traffic)), and when practicable, move clear of the roadway~~  
23 upon meeting an oncoming vehicle.

24 (3) (~~A pedestrian traveling to the nearest emergency reporting~~  
25 ~~device on a one-way roadway of a controlled access highway is not~~  
26 ~~required to travel facing traffic as otherwise required by subsection~~  
27 ~~(2) of this section.~~

28 ~~(4))~~ When walking or otherwise moving along and upon (~~an~~  
29 ~~adjacent)) a roadway as authorized under this section, a pedestrian  
30 shall exercise due care to avoid colliding with any vehicle upon the  
31 roadway.~~

32 (~~(5))~~ (4) Subsections (1) and (2) of this section do not apply  
33 when the roadway is duly closed to vehicular traffic by placement of  
34 official traffic control devices for the sole purposes of pedestrian  
35 and bicyclist use of the roadway.

36 (5) A police officer shall not stop a pedestrian for a violation  
37 of subsections (1) through (3) of this section unless the pedestrian  
38 is in violation of RCW 46.61.235(2).



1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 8.**    (1) By July 1, 2025, and every July 1st  
2 thereafter, the administrative office of the courts must report state  
3 and local infraction data for pedestrian violations of crossing or  
4 moving along a roadway to the appropriate committees of the  
5 legislature.

6        (2) This section expires August 1, 2029.

7        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 9.**    A new section is added to chapter 46.61  
8 RCW to read as follows:

9        A police officer shall not stop a pedestrian for a violation of a  
10 local ordinance regulating the crossing or entering of roadways by  
11 pedestrians unless the pedestrian is in violation of RCW 46.61.235(2)  
12 or an equivalent local ordinance. This section does not relieve a  
13 pedestrian from the duty of exercising due care for the pedestrian's  
14 safety or relieve a driver of a vehicle from the duty of exercising  
15 due care for the safety of any pedestrian within the roadway.

16        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 10.**    This act does not apply to fully  
17 controlled limited access highways in locations where no pedestrian  
18 facilities are available or pedestrian movement is restricted  
19 consistent with RCW 46.61.160.

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