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State of Minnesota

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETIETH SESSION

H. F. No. 455

- 01/23/2017 Authored by Halverson, Masin and Ecklund
- The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Regional Governance Policy
- 02/16/2017 Adoption of Report: Amended and re-referred to the Committee on Government Operations and Elections Policy
- 02/22/2017 Adoption of Report: Placed on the General Register
- Read for the Second Time
- 05/22/2017 Pursuant to Rule 4.20, returned to the Committee on Government Operations and Elections Policy

A bill for an act

1.1 relating to public safety; prohibiting school bus stops in right-turn and bicycle
 1.2 lanes except under specified conditions; requiring use of prewarning amber signals,
 1.3 flashing red signals, and stop-signal arms when stopping in right-turn lanes;
 1.4 amending Minnesota Statutes 2016, sections 169.18, subdivision 7; 169.443,
 1.5 subdivision 2.
 1.6

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 169.18, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

1.9 Subd. 7. **Laned highway.** When any roadway has been divided into two or more clearly
 1.10 marked lanes for traffic, the following rules, in addition to all others consistent herewith,
 1.11 shall apply:

1.12 (a) A vehicle shall be driven as nearly as practicable entirely within a single lane and
 1.13 shall not be moved from such lane until the driver has first ascertained that such movement
 1.14 can be made with safety.

1.15 (b) Upon a roadway which is not a one-way roadway and which is divided into three
 1.16 lanes, a vehicle shall not be driven in the center lane except when overtaking and passing
 1.17 another vehicle where the roadway is clearly visible and such center lane is clear of traffic
 1.18 within a safe distance, or in preparation for a left turn or where such center lane is at the
 1.19 time allocated exclusively to traffic moving in the direction the vehicle is proceeding, and
 1.20 is signposted to give notice of such allocation. The left lane of a three-lane roadway which
 1.21 is not a one-way roadway shall not be used for overtaking and passing another vehicle.

1.22 (c) Official signs may be erected directing slow-moving traffic to use a designated lane
 1.23 or allocating specified lanes to traffic moving in the same direction, and drivers of vehicles
 1.24 shall obey the directions of every such sign.

2.1 (d) Whenever a bicycle lane has been established on a roadway, any person operating
2.2 a motor vehicle on such roadway shall not drive in the bicycle lane except to perform parking
2.3 maneuvers in order to park where parking is permitted, to enter or leave the highway, or to
2.4 prepare for a turn as provided in section 169.19, subdivision 1, or to stop a school bus for
2.5 the purpose of receiving or discharging any person provided the school bus is equipped and
2.6 identified as provided in sections 169.441 and 169.442, subdivision 1, and the flashing red
2.7 signals are activated and stop-signal arm is extended.

2.8 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 169.443, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

2.9 Subd. 2. **Use of stop-signal arm.** (a) The stop-signal arm system of a school bus must
2.10 be used in conjunction with the flashing red signals only when the school bus is stopped on
2.11 a street or highway to load or unload school children.

2.12 (b) A local authority, including the governing body of an Indian tribe, may by ordinance
2.13 require that a school bus activate the stop-signal arm system and flashing red signals while
2.14 stopped to unload school children at a location other than a location on a street or highway.
2.15 The ordinance must designate each location where the requirement is imposed. The
2.16 requirement is effective only if the local authority has erected signs at or near the location
2.17 to provide adequate notice that other vehicles are required to obey section 169.444,
2.18 subdivision 1, when those signals are activated.

2.19 (c) A school bus driver is prohibited from loading or unloading passengers in a designated
2.20 right-turn lane or in a lane immediately adjacent to a designated right-turn lane unless:

2.21 (1) a school bus stop designated by the district transportation safety director is located
2.22 in the right-turn lane;

2.23 (2) the driver stops the bus at the extreme right side of the right-turn lane; and

2.24 (3) the driver activates the prewarning flashing amber signals, flashing red signals, and
2.25 stop-arm signal, unless the school board or its designee, based on safety considerations, has
2.26 directed the driver not to do so in writing.

2.27 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2017.

2.28 Sec. 3. **RULE CHANGE.**

2.29 The commissioner of public safety must amend Minnesota Rules, part 7470.1000, subpart
2.30 2, so that it is consistent with section 2, using the good cause procedure under Minnesota
2.31 Statutes, section 14.388.

3.1 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.