

SB 998 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 6/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Provides that bicyclist approaching intersection with stop sign or flashing red light may proceed through the intersection or make a turn without stopping. Creates new traffic violation of improper entry into an intersection controlled by a stop sign. Creates new traffic violation of improper entry into an intersection controlled by a flashing red light. Specifies that violation occurs when bicyclist fails to yield to traffic within the intersection, fails to yield to traffic so close as to constitute an immediate hazard, disobeys a police officer or flagger, fails to exercise care to avoid accident, or fails to yield the right of way to a pedestrian. Makes violations Class D traffic violation.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Similar legislation in other states
- Need to protect flaggers and road workers
- Effect of amendments

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Under current Oregon law, individuals riding bicycles on public roads are treated like other vehicles and must stop at intersections controlled by stop signs or a flashing red light before proceeding through the intersection. Several other states, including Idaho, allow bicyclists to treat stop signs or flashing red lights as yield signs and proceed through the intersection if the bicyclist takes certain precautions.

Senate Bill 998 A allows a bicyclist approaching an intersection regulated by a stop sign or flashing red light at a safe speed to proceed through that intersection or make a turn without stopping. It also creates traffic violation of improper entry into an intersection controlled by a stop sign and improper entry into an intersection controlled by a flashing red light. A violation of either occurs when a bicyclist fails to yield to traffic within the intersection or to traffic that is approaching so close as to constitute an immediate hazard, disobeys a police officer or flagger, fails to exercise care to avoid an accident, or fails to yield the right of way to a pedestrian. SB 998 A makes a violation of either a Class D traffic violation.