

## ENGROSSED LEGISLATIVE BILL 977

Introduced by Storer, 43; DeKay, 40; Strommen, 47.

A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Nebraska Rules of the Road; to amend sections 60-6,111, 60-6,193, and 60-6,376, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 60-676.01 and 60-6,378.02, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025; to redefine vulnerable road user; to change provisions relating to certain animals being led, herded, or driven on or along highways; to prohibit certain individuals from traveling on certain roadways; to provide for operators of electric personal assistive mobility devices to yield to vulnerable road users; to change provisions relating to vulnerable road users; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original sections.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

**Section 1.** Section 60-676.01, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025, is amended to read:

60-676.01 Vulnerable road user means:

(1) Any pedestrian who is:

(a) On a highway and constructing or repairing such highway;

(b) Working on utility facilities along a highway;

(c) Providing emergency services on or along a highway;

(d) In a crosswalk; or

(e) On the shoulder;

(2) Any individual operating any of the following on or along a highway:

(a) Any bicycle;

(b) Any electric bicycle;

(c) Any motorcycle other than an autocycle;

(d) Any moped; or

(e) Any vehicle or device similar to any vehicle or device listed in subdivisions (2)(a) through (2)(d) of this section;

(3) Any individual who is riding any animal or driving any animal-drawn

vehicle on or along a highway;

(4) Any individual who is leading, herding, or driving livestock as defined in section 60-6,378.02 on or along a highway;

(5) Any individual operating an implement of husbandry, including a farm tractor, that is on or along a highway; and

(6) Any individual who is in a crosswalk or on a shoulder and who is on any:

(a) Coaster, skate, sled, ski, board, or toy vehicle;

(b) Electric personal assistive mobility device; or

(c) Wheelchair.

**Sec. 2.** Section 60-6,111, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

60-6,111 (1) Except as provided in section 60-6,378.02, any person who rides an animal or drives an animal-drawn vehicle, a farm tractor, or an implement of husbandry upon a roadway shall be granted all of the rights and shall be subject to all of the duties made applicable to the driver of a vehicle by the Nebraska Rules of the Road except those provisions of the rules which by their very nature can have no application.

(2) Except as provided in section 60-6,378.02, whenever the slowness of such animal, animal-drawn vehicle, farm tractor, or implement of husbandry is obstructing the normal flow of traffic, the rider or driver shall drive to the nearest available shoulder of the highway and allow traffic to pass.

**Sec. 3.** Section 60-6,193, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

60-6,193 (1) No person shall drive a motor vehicle at such a slow speed as to impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic except when reduced speed is necessary for safe operation or in compliance with law.

(2) On a freeway no motor vehicle, except emergency vehicles, shall be operated at a speed of less than forty miles per hour or at such a slow speed as to impede or block the normal and reasonable movement of traffic except when reduced speed is necessary for the safe operation of the motor vehicle because

of weather, visibility, roadway, or traffic conditions. All vehicles entering or leaving such freeway from an acceleration or deceleration lane shall conform with the minimum speed regulations while they are within the roadway of the freeway. The minimum speed of forty miles per hour may be altered by the Department of Transportation or local authorities on freeways under their respective jurisdictions.

(3) Whenever the department or any local authority within its respective jurisdiction determines on the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation that low speeds on any part of a highway consistently impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic, the department or such local authority may determine and declare a minimum speed limit below which no person shall drive a vehicle except when necessary for safe operation or in compliance with law.

(4) Vehicular, animal, and pedestrian traffic prohibited on freeways by the Nebraska Rules of the Road and any individual who is leading, herding, or driving livestock as defined in section 60-6,378.02 on or along a highway shall not travel on any other roadway where minimum speed limits of twenty miles per hour or more are posted.

(5) Any minimum speed limit that is imposed under subsection (2) or (3) of this section shall not be effective until appropriate and adequate signs are erected along the roadway affected by such regulation apprising motorists of such limitation.

(6) On any freeway, or other highway providing for two or more lanes of travel in one direction, vehicles shall not intentionally impede the normal flow of traffic by traveling side by side and at the same speed while in adjacent lanes. This subsection shall not be construed to prevent vehicles from traveling side by side in adjacent lanes because of congested traffic conditions.

**Sec. 4.** Section 60-6,376, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

60-6,376 (1) Any person who operates an electric personal assistive

mobility device on a highway shall have all of the rights and shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to the operator of a vehicle under the Nebraska Rules of the Road except (a) as provided in special electric personal assistive mobility device regulations adopted pursuant to the Nebraska Rules of the Road, (b) any provisions of the Nebraska Rules of the Road which by their nature can have no application, and (c) as provided in section 60-6,142 with respect to operating an electric personal assistive mobility device on a shoulder of a highway.

(2) An electric personal assistive mobility device may be operated on any highway, alley, sidewalk, bike trail, path, or any other area where persons travel, except as provided by the Department of Transportation or local authority. Regulations applicable to an electric personal assistive mobility device shall apply whenever an electric personal assistive mobility device is so operated.

(3) An operator of an electric personal assistive mobility device shall yield to vulnerable road users, pedestrian traffic, and any human-powered or animal-powered vehicle at all times. An operator of an electric personal assistive mobility device shall give an audible signal before overtaking and passing any vulnerable road user, pedestrian, or human-powered or animal-powered vehicle. A person violating this subsection shall be fined ten dollars for the first offense. A person violating this subsection shall have his or her electric personal assistive mobility device impounded for up to thirty days for each subsequent offense.

**Sec. 5.** Section 60-6,378.02, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025, is amended to read:

60-6,378.02 (1) The operator of a motor vehicle shall proceed with due care and caution as described in subsection (2) of this section when approaching or passing a vulnerable road user.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section:

(a) If there are at least two adjacent lanes of travel in the same direction on the same side of the highway as the vulnerable road user, the

driver of the approaching or passing motor vehicle shall proceed with due care and caution and yield the right-of-way when approaching or passing the vulnerable road user by moving into a lane at least one moving lane apart from the vulnerable road user unless directed otherwise by any peace officer, authorized emergency personnel, or road assistance personnel as defined in section 60-6,378; and

(b) If there are not two adjacent lanes of travel in the same direction on the same side of the highway as the vulnerable road user or if moving into another lane is not reasonably possible as defined in section 60-6,378, the driver of the approaching or passing vehicle shall:

(i) Reduce his or her speed;

(ii) Maintain a safe speed with regard to the location of the vulnerable road user, the weather conditions, the road conditions, and vehicular or pedestrian traffic; and

(iii) Proceed with due care and caution or proceed as directed by any peace officer, authorized emergency personnel, or road assistance personnel.

(3)(a) For purposes of this subsection, livestock means any horse, mule, donkey, cattle, swine, sheep, or goat.

(b) Any person who is operating a motor vehicle upon a highway shall:

(i) Use caution when approaching or passing any person who is leading, herding, or driving livestock on or along the highway;

(ii) Promptly stop such motor vehicle if a person who is leading, herding, or driving livestock on or along the highway gives a distress signal to the motor vehicle by raising a hand; and

(iii) Yield the right of way to livestock being led, herded, or driven on or along the highway.

(c) Subdivision (b) of this subsection does not apply if moving the motor vehicle is necessary to avoid an accident.

(4) Any person who violates this section is guilty of a:

(a) Class IIIA misdemeanor for a second or subsequent violation committed within five years after a conviction for a violation of this section; or

(b) Traffic infraction for any other violation.

(5) This section does not grant any vulnerable road user the right to be on or along any highway in violation of any other state or local law.

**Sec. 6.** Original sections 60-6,111, 60-6,193, and 60-6,376, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 60-676.01 and 60-6,378.02, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025, are repealed.

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**PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATURE**

*THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the within LB 977 was passed by the One Hundred Ninth Legislature of Nebraska at its Second Session on the ..... day of ..... 20.....*

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**CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE**

**Approved:**

..... 20....., ..... o'clock .....M.

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**GOVERNOR**