

House Bill 417

By: Representatives Frye of the 118th, Quick of the 117th, Williams of the 119th, Atwood of the 179th, Hitchens of the 161st, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to motor vehicles, so
2 as to provide for definitions; to require drivers of motor vehicles to stop at crosswalks with
3 pedestrian-activated rectangular rapid flash beacons; to make it unlawful to activate such
4 devices when there is no intent to cross a roadway; to provide for related matters; to repeal
5 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to motor vehicles, is amended
9 in Code Section 40-1-1, relating to definitions, by adding a new paragraph as follows:

10 "(50.02) 'Rectangular rapid flash beacon' means user-activated amber light emitting diodes
11 (LEDs) that supplement warning signals at unsignalized intersections or mid-block
12 crosswalks. Such devices emit an irregular flash pattern and may be activated by
13 pedestrians manually by a push button or passively by a pedestrian detection system. The
14 term shall be interchangeable with LED rapid-flash system, stutter flash, or LED beacons."

15 **SECTION 2.**

16 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 40-6-91, relating to right of way in
17 crosswalks, as follows:

18 "40-6-91.

19 (a) The driver of a vehicle shall stop and remain stopped to allow a pedestrian to cross the
20 roadway within a crosswalk when the pedestrian is upon the half of the roadway upon
21 which the vehicle is traveling, or when the pedestrian is approaching and is within one lane
22 of the half of the roadway on which the vehicle is traveling or onto which it is turning. For
23 the purposes of this subsection, 'half of the roadway' means all traffic lanes carrying traffic
24 in one direction of travel.

25 (b) The driver of a vehicle shall stop and remain stopped to allow a pedestrian to cross the
26 roadway within a crosswalk when an approved rectangular rapid flash beacon or similar
27 device has been activated.

28 (c) No pedestrian shall suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into
29 the path of a vehicle which is so close that it is impractical for the driver to yield. No
30 pedestrian shall manually activate or intentionally cause to be activated a rapid flash
31 beacon or similar device at a crosswalk unless such person intends to cross a roadway.

32 ~~(e)~~(d) Subsection (a) of this Code section shall not apply under the conditions stated in
33 subsection (b) of Code Section 40-6-92.

34 ~~(d)~~(e) Whenever any vehicle is stopped at a marked crosswalk or at any unmarked
35 crosswalk at an intersection to permit a pedestrian to cross the roadway, the driver of any
36 other vehicle approaching from the rear shall not overtake and pass such stopped vehicle."

37 **SECTION 3.**

38 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.