

House Bill 234

By: Representatives Frye of the 118<sup>th</sup>, Quick of the 117<sup>th</sup>, Hitchens of the 161<sup>st</sup>, Williams of the 119<sup>th</sup>, Cantrell of the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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 and  
2 traffic, so as to require drivers of motor vehicles to stop at crosswalks with user activated  
3 rectangular rapid-flash beacons; to make it unlawful to activate such devices when there is  
4 no intent to cross a roadway; to require drivers of motor vehicles to stop at crosswalks for  
5 bicycle riders; to provide for definitions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting  
6 laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

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

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

18 **SECTION 2.**

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

21 "40-6-91.

22 (a) The driver of a vehicle shall stop and remain stopped to allow a pedestrian or bicycle  
23 rider to cross the roadway within a crosswalk when the pedestrian or bicycle rider is upon  
24 the half of the roadway upon which the vehicle is traveling, or when the pedestrian or  
25 bicycle rider is approaching and is within one lane of the half of the roadway on which the

26 vehicle is traveling or onto which it is turning. For the purposes of this subsection, 'half  
27 of the roadway' means all traffic lanes carrying traffic in one direction of travel.

28 (b) The driver of a vehicle shall stop and remain stopped to allow a pedestrian or bicycle  
29 rider to cross the roadway within a crosswalk when an approved rectangular rapid-flash  
30 beacon or similar device has been activated.

31 (c) No pedestrian or bicycle rider shall suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and  
32 ~~walk or run~~ walk, run, or ride into the path of a vehicle which is so close that it is  
33 impractical for the driver to yield. No pedestrian or bicycle rider shall manually activate  
34 or intentionally cause to be activated a rapid-flash beacon or similar device at a crosswalk  
35 unless such pedestrian or bicycle rider intends to cross such roadway.

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

38 (d)(e) Whenever any vehicle is stopped at a marked crosswalk or at any unmarked  
39 crosswalk at an intersection to permit a pedestrian or bicycle rider to cross the roadway, the  
40 driver of any other vehicle approaching from the rear shall not overtake and pass such  
41 stopped vehicle."

42 **SECTION 3.**

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