

1-1 By: Hancock S.B. No. 2039
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 7, 2025; March 17, 2025, read
 1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Transportation;
 1-4 April 2, 2025, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 8,
 1-5 Nays 0; April 2, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14			X	
1-15	X			
1-16	X			

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to the applicability of certain pedestrian laws to certain
 1-20 sidewalk users.

1-21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-22 SECTION 1. Section 541.001, Transportation Code, is amended
 1-23 by adding Subdivision (6) to read as follows:

1-24 (6) "Sidewalk user" means an individual lawfully
 1-25 operating one of the following on a sidewalk:

1-26 (A) a bicycle;

1-27 (B) a motor-assisted scooter, as defined by
 1-28 Section 551.351;

1-29 (C) an electric personal assistive mobility
 1-30 device, as defined by Section 551.201;

1-31 (D) a skateboard;

1-32 (E) roller skates; or

1-33 (F) a similar device.

1-34 SECTION 2. Sections 544.007(b), (c), and (d),
 1-35 Transportation Code, are amended to read as follows:

1-36 (b) An operator of a vehicle facing a circular green signal
 1-37 may proceed straight or turn right or left unless a sign prohibits
 1-38 the turn. The operator shall, while the signal is exhibited:

1-39 (1) yield the right-of-way to other vehicles lawfully
 1-40 in the intersection when the signal is exhibited; and

1-41 (2) stop and yield the right-of-way to pedestrians or
 1-42 sidewalk users lawfully in the intersection or an adjacent
 1-43 crosswalk.

1-44 (c) An operator of a vehicle facing a green arrow signal,
 1-45 displayed alone or with another signal, may cautiously enter the
 1-46 intersection to move in the direction permitted by the arrow or
 1-47 other indication shown simultaneously. The operator shall stop and
 1-48 yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian or sidewalk user lawfully in
 1-49 an adjacent crosswalk and shall yield the right-of-way to other
 1-50 traffic lawfully using the intersection.

1-51 (d) An operator of a vehicle facing only a steady red signal
 1-52 shall stop at a clearly marked stop line. In the absence of a stop
 1-53 line, the operator shall stop before entering the crosswalk on the
 1-54 near side of the intersection. A vehicle that is not turning shall
 1-55 remain standing until an indication to proceed is shown. After
 1-56 stopping, standing until the intersection may be entered safely,
 1-57 and yielding right-of-way to pedestrians and sidewalk users
 1-58 lawfully in an adjacent crosswalk and other traffic lawfully using
 1-59 the intersection, the operator may:

1-60 (1) turn right; or

1-61 (2) turn left, if the intersecting streets are both

2-1 one-way streets and a left turn is permissible.

2-2 SECTION 3. Section 545.256, Transportation Code, is amended
2-3 to read as follows:

2-4 Sec. 545.256. EMERGING FROM AN ALLEY, DRIVEWAY, OR
2-5 BUILDING. An operator emerging from an alley, driveway, or
2-6 building in a business or residence district shall:

2-7 (1) stop the vehicle before moving on a sidewalk or the
2-8 sidewalk area extending across an alley or driveway;

2-9 (2) yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian or sidewalk
2-10 user to avoid collision; and

2-11 (3) on entering the roadway, yield the right-of-way to
2-12 an approaching vehicle.

2-13 SECTION 4. The heading to Chapter 552, Transportation Code,
2-14 is amended to read as follows:

2-15 CHAPTER 552. PEDESTRIANS AND OTHER SIDEWALK USERS

2-16 SECTION 5. Sections 552.001 and 552.002, Transportation
2-17 Code, are amended to read as follows:

2-18 Sec. 552.001. TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNALS. (a) A traffic
2-19 control signal displaying green, red, and yellow lights or lighted
2-20 arrows applies to a pedestrian and a sidewalk user as provided by
2-21 this section unless the pedestrian or sidewalk user is otherwise
2-22 directed by a special pedestrian control signal.

2-23 (b) A pedestrian or sidewalk user facing a green signal may
2-24 proceed across a roadway within a marked or unmarked crosswalk
2-25 unless the sole green signal is a turn arrow.

2-26 (c) A pedestrian or sidewalk user facing a steady red signal
2-27 alone or a steady yellow signal may not enter a roadway.

2-28 Sec. 552.002. PEDESTRIAN OR SIDEWALK USER RIGHT-OF-WAY IF
2-29 CONTROL SIGNAL PRESENT. (a) A pedestrian control signal
2-30 displaying "Walk," "Don't Walk," or "Wait" applies to a pedestrian
2-31 and a sidewalk user as provided by this section.

2-32 (b) A pedestrian or sidewalk user facing a "Walk" signal may
2-33 proceed across a roadway in the direction of the signal, and the
2-34 operator of a vehicle shall stop and yield the right-of-way to the
2-35 pedestrian or sidewalk user.

2-36 (c) A pedestrian or sidewalk user may not start to cross a
2-37 roadway in the direction of a "Don't Walk" signal or a "Wait"
2-38 signal. A pedestrian or sidewalk user who has partially crossed
2-39 while the "Walk" signal is displayed shall proceed to a sidewalk or
2-40 safety island while the "Don't Walk" signal or "Wait" signal is
2-41 displayed.

2-42 SECTION 6. Chapter 552, Transportation Code, is amended by
2-43 adding Sections 552.0035 and 552.0036 to read as follows:

2-44 Sec. 552.0035. SIDEWALK USER RIGHT-OF-WAY AT
2-45 CROSSWALK. (a) The operator of a vehicle shall stop and yield the
2-46 right-of-way to a sidewalk user crossing a roadway in a crosswalk
2-47 if:

2-48 (1) no traffic control signal is in place or in
2-49 operation; and

2-50 (2) the sidewalk user is:

2-51 (A) on the half of the roadway in which the
2-52 vehicle is traveling; or

2-53 (B) approaching so closely from the opposite half
2-54 of the roadway as to be in danger.

2-55 (b) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), a sidewalk user may not
2-56 suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and proceed into a
2-57 crosswalk in the path of a vehicle so close that it is impossible
2-58 for the vehicle operator to stop and yield.

2-59 (c) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), a sidewalk user may not
2-60 approach or enter a crosswalk at a speed greater than is reasonable
2-61 and prudent under the existing conditions and having regard for
2-62 actual and potential existing hazards. For the purposes of this
2-63 subsection, a speed greater than eight miles per hour is prima facie
2-64 evidence that the speed is not reasonable and prudent.

2-65 (d) The operator of a vehicle approaching from the rear of a
2-66 vehicle that is stopped at a crosswalk to permit a sidewalk user to
2-67 cross a roadway may not pass the stopped vehicle.

2-68 Sec. 552.0036. SIDEWALK USER RIGHT-OF-WAY AT STOP SIGN. A
2-69 sidewalk user approaching an intersection with a stop sign shall:

