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To whom it may concern,

Vermont enacted an excellent "safe passing law" in 2010 to improve the safety of "vulnerable users" (which includes bicyclists) on the public roads. A new bill to be introduced in the Vermont House of Representatives in January, 2012, identified now as (dr req 11-762 – draft 2.1) by legislative Counsel, proposes to add several important safety features to that law. It contains the following statements of subject and purpose:

"Subject: Motor vehicles; vulnerable users; bicyclists; passing; turning; bicycle lanes
Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to require that operators of motor vehicles:

(1) pass vulnerable users at specified distances depending on the operator's speed;

(2) refrain from driving to the left side of the center of a roadway to pass a vehicle or vulnerable user unless the left side is clearly visible and free of oncoming traffic and vulnerable users for a sufficient distance to permit safe overtaking and passing, and unless passing can be accomplished without interfering with the operation of any vehicle or with any vulnerable user; and

(3) yield to vulnerable users when turning."

The bill uses the language of the current law in New Hampshire requiring 3 feet of clearance at 30 mph with an additional foot for every 10 mph above 30.

This improves on laws requiring a 3-foot clearance regardless of motor vehicle speed and addresses two other very dangerous situations regularly experienced by most bicyclists on public roads.

The League of American Bicyclists endorses this proposed bill and hopes it will be enacted and become a model for legislation in other states.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy Clarke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Andy Clarke
President, League of American Bicyclists