

CHAPTER 36, Laws of 1979

AN ACT to amend 346.23 and 346.38; and to create 340.01 (75) of the statutes, relating to rights and duties of drivers and pedestrians at controlled intersections and providing a penalty.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 340.01 (75) of the statutes is created to read:

340.01 (75) "Yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian" means the operator of a vehicle is required to reduce speed, or stop if necessary, to avoid endangering, colliding with or interfering in any way with pedestrian travel.

SECTION 2. 346.23 of the statutes is amended to read:

346.23 Crossing controlled intersection or crosswalk. (1) At an intersection or crosswalk where traffic is controlled by traffic control signals or by a traffic officer, the operator of a vehicle shall yield the ~~right-of-way~~ right-of-way to a pedestrian ~~crossing or~~ who has started to cross the highway on a green or "~~WALK~~" "Walk" signal and in all other cases pedestrians shall yield the right of way to vehicles lawfully proceeding directly ahead on a green signal. No operator of a vehicle proceeding ahead on a green signal may begin a turn at a controlled intersection or crosswalk when a pedestrian crossing in the crosswalk on a green or "Walk" signal would be endangered or interfered with in any way. The rules stated in this subsection are modified at intersections or ~~crosswalks~~ crosswalks on divided highways or highways provided with safety zones in the manner and to the extent stated in sub. (2).

(2) At intersections or crosswalks on divided highways or highways provided with safety zones where traffic is controlled by traffic control signals or by a traffic officer, the operator of a vehicle shall yield the ~~right-of-way~~ right-of-way to a pedestrian who is ~~crossing or~~ has started to cross the roadway either from the near curb or shoulder or from the center dividing strip or a safety zone with the green or "~~WALK~~" "Walk" signal in ~~his~~ the pedestrian's favor ~~but when the signal turns against the pedestrian before he leaves the center dividing space or safety island, he shall yield the right of way to vehicles lawfully proceeding directly ahead on a green signal.~~

SECTION 3. 346.38 of the statutes is amended to read:

346.38 Pedestrian control signals. Whenever special pedestrian control signals exhibiting the words "Walk" or "~~Wait~~" or "Don't Walk" are in place, such signals indicate as follows:

(1) WALK. A pedestrian facing a "Walk" signal may proceed across the roadway or other vehicular crossing in the direction of the signal and ~~shall be given the right of way by~~ the operators of all vehicles shall yield the right-of-way to the pedestrian.

(2) (title) DON'T WALK. No pedestrian ~~shall~~ may start to cross the roadway or other vehicular crossing in the direction of a "~~Wait~~" or "Don't Walk" signal, but any pedestrian who has partially completed crossing on the ~~walk~~ "Walk" signal may proceed to a side-walk or safety ~~island~~ zone while the ~~wait~~ a "Don't Walk" signal is showing.