

1 HB96
2 115695-1
3 By Representative Gordon
4 RFD: Public Safety
5 First Read: 12-JAN-10
6 PFD: 01/06/2010

2
3
4
5
6
7
8 SYNOPSIS: Existing law does not require a person
9 driving a motor vehicle passing a person on a
10 bicycle to stay a certain distance from the
11 bicyclist until he or she has safely overtaken the
12 bicycle.

13 This bill would require the operator to
14 maintain a distance of at least a three feet when
15 passing a person on a bicycle and provide for civil
16 penalties when a violation of the act causes
17 serious physical injury or death to another person.
18

19 A BILL
20 TO BE ENTITLED
21 AN ACT
22

23 Relating to motor vehicles; to require a motor
24 vehicle passing a person on a bicycle to keep a distance of at
25 least three feet; and to provide civil penalties when a
26 violation of this act causes serious physical injury or death
27 to another person.

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

2 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited
3 as the Three Feet Please Act.

4 Section 2. (a) When overtaking and passing a bicycle
5 proceeding in the same direction, a person driving a motor
6 vehicle shall pass to the left and exercise due care by
7 leaving a safe distance between the motor vehicle and the
8 bicycle of not less than three feet until the motor vehicle is
9 safely past the overtaken bicycle.

10 (b) (1) A person who violates this act with the
11 violation resulting in a collision causing serious physical
12 injury to another person shall be subject to a civil penalty
13 in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500), in addition to
14 any other penalties as prescribed by law.

15 (2) A person who violates this act with the
16 violation resulting in a collision causing death to another
17 person shall be subject to a civil penalty of up to one
18 thousand dollars (\$1,000), in addition to any other penalties
19 as prescribed by law.

20 (c) Subsection (b) does not apply to a bicyclist who
21 is injured in a vehicular traffic lane when a designated
22 bicycle lane or path is present and passable.

23 Section 3. This act shall become effective on the
24 first day of the third month following its passage and
25 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.