

HOUSE BILL 685

By Freeman

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 54
and Title 55, relative to highway safety.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 54, Chapter 1, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as new sections:

54-1-104.

The department of transportation shall identify locations of impassable public roads in this state, which include roads that are in a negligent state of disrepair or render passage unreasonably inconvenient or potentially injurious to motor vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians. On or before February 15, 2024, the commissioner of transportation shall submit a report, including its findings, recommendations, and proposed legislation, to the chairs of the transportation committee of the house of representatives and the transportation and safety committee of the senate. The department's report must identify the areas in this state that have the most impassable roads.

54-1-105.

(a) The general assembly finds that it is in the best interest of the people of this state that pedestrian safety be increased and pedestrian safety and access projects be given priority in overall transportation spending.

(b) On or before February 15, 2024, the department of transportation, in consultation with the department of safety and local law enforcement agencies and highway safety offices, shall submit a report to the chairs of the transportation committee

of the house of representatives and the transportation and safety committee of the senate on the development of a five-year statewide plan to increase pedestrian safety.

(c) From pedestrian-related traffic crash data or other data available to, or collected by, the department, department of safety, or local law enforcement agencies and highway safety offices, the department's report must identify the areas in this state that have demonstrated pedestrian safety problems, such as those areas where pedestrian injuries and fatalities resulting from a collision with a motor vehicle are frequent.

(d) The department's report must also identify intersection design or other factors contributing to the pedestrian-related traffic crashes, including whether a motor vehicle making a right turn upon a red or yellow light at an intersection was permitted, whether the crosswalk at the intersection was not controlled by a traffic control signal, whether the driver of the motor vehicle was not observing applicable traffic laws or otherwise failing to exercise due care, and whether a pedestrian crossing yield sign that makes reference to state law was not posted at the crosswalk or intersection.

(e) The department shall send a copy of the report to each of the five (5) local governments with the highest number of pedestrian safety problems.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.