



peopleforbikes

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January 20, 2021

Dear Chairman Ruby and Members of the House Transportation Committee,

On behalf of PeopleForBikes, I am writing in support of HB 1252, relating to stopping and yielding while operating a bicycle.

PeopleForBikes is the national advocacy group that works for better policies and infrastructure for bike riding. We strive to make bike riding **safer and more inclusive for everyone**, including our 10,000 individual supporters in North Dakota.

The maneuvers allowed in this bill are colloquially referred to as the "Idaho Stop." The Idaho Stop allows cyclists to get in front of traffic and increase their visibility to motorists. Having cyclists "clear" an intersection before the light turns green can reduce the potential for collisions in the intersection and improve the flow of traffic.

Research¹ on Idaho's 30-year Idaho Stop law has shown that bicycle safety is 30% safer in Idaho than in states lacking the law. In the first year after adopting the Idaho Stop, bicycle injuries declined by 14.5% in the state. Stopping at stop signs significantly slows² a cyclist's momentum and even requires a higher energy expenditure throughout their ride. This could impact the safety of a cyclist when moving through an intersection.

PeopleForBikes supports HB 1252 and urges a do pass recommendation on the bill. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

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¹ <https://denver.streetsblog.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2018/02/idaho-law-jasonmeggs-2010version-2.pdf>

² <https://nacto.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Fajans-J.-and-M.-Curry.-2001.pdf>