

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to traffic and pedestrian safety;
3 providing a short title; creating s. 316.0756, F.S.;
4 requiring a traffic engineering study to be conducted
5 which recommends installation of a specified
6 pedestrian crosswalk before such installation occurs;
7 requiring a pedestrian crosswalk on a public highway,
8 street, or road which is located at any point other
9 than at an intersection with another public highway,
10 street, or road to conform to specified requirements;
11 requiring specified pavement markings at specified
12 midblock crosswalks by a specified date; providing
13 coordination requirements for certain devices and
14 signals; requiring that traffic control signal devices
15 at adjacent intersections be taken into consideration;
16 requiring, by a specified date, the entity with
17 jurisdiction over a public highway, street, or road
18 with a certain pedestrian crosswalk to ensure that the
19 crosswalk conforms to specified requirements;
20 authorizing such entity, alternatively, to remove any
21 such crosswalk; requiring, by a specified date, the
22 Department of Transportation to submit a certain
23 request for authorization to the Federal Government;
24 requiring applicable entities to replace or remove
25 specified traffic control devices within a specified

26 | timeframe after the date of federal authorization or
 27 | denial, as applicable; authorizing retrofitting of
 28 | crosswalks with legally acceptable equipment;
 29 | providing a declaration of important state interest;
 30 | providing an effective date.

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 32 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 34 | Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Sophia Nelson
 35 | Pedestrian Safety Act."

36 | Section 2. Section 316.0756, Florida Statutes, is created
 37 | to read:

38 | 316.0756 Traffic control signal devices and pedestrian
 39 | control signals at crosswalks other than at intersections.-

40 | (1) (a) Before the installation of a pedestrian crosswalk
 41 | after October 1, 2021, on a public highway, street, or road
 42 | which is located at any point other than at an intersection with
 43 | another public highway, street, or road, a traffic engineering
 44 | study must be conducted by a Florida licensed professional
 45 | engineer which recommends the installation of such crosswalk.

46 | (b) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary:

47 | 1. A pedestrian crosswalk on a public highway, street, or
 48 | road that has a posted speed limit of 30 miles per hour or more
 49 | which is located at any point other than at an intersection with
 50 | another public highway, street, or road must conform to the

51 requirements of chapters 4D and 4E of the most recent Manual on
52 Uniform Traffic Control Devices and other applicable Department
53 of Transportation standards, manuals, and specifications and
54 must include a pedestrian-facing sign containing language
55 stating duties applicable to a pedestrian, as provided in this
56 chapter.

57 2. A pedestrian crosswalk on a public highway, street, or
58 road that has a posted speed limit of 29 miles per hour or less
59 which is located at any point other than at an intersection with
60 another public highway, street, or road must include a
61 pedestrian-facing sign containing language stating duties
62 applicable to a pedestrian, as provided in this chapter.

63 (c) By October 1, 2025, each pedestrian crosswalk on a
64 public highway, street, or road which is located at any point
65 other than at an intersection with another public highway,
66 street, or road must include advance yield or stop pavement
67 markings at least 30 feet in advance of the pedestrian
68 crosswalk.

69 (d) Traffic control signal devices and pedestrian control
70 signals at crosswalk locations described in subparagraph (b)1.
71 must be coordinated with traffic control signal devices at
72 intersections adjacent to the crosswalk, and such traffic
73 control signal devices at intersections adjacent to the
74 crosswalk must be taken into consideration as provided in the
75 most recent Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and other

76 applicable Department of Transportation specifications.

77 (2) By October 1, 2024, the entity with jurisdiction over
78 a public highway, street, or road with a crosswalk described in
79 subsection (1) which is in existence on October 1, 2021, shall
80 ensure that such crosswalk is controlled by coordinated traffic
81 control signal devices and pedestrian control signals as
82 required under subsection (1). Alternatively, the entity with
83 jurisdiction may remove any such existing crosswalk.

84 (3) By October 1, 2022, the Department of Transportation
85 shall submit to the Federal Government a request for
86 authorization to allow yellow rectangular rapid flashing beacon
87 traffic control devices to be replaced by red rectangular rapid
88 flashing beacon traffic control devices. If the Federal
89 Government grants the request, the applicable entity must
90 replace all yellow rectangular rapid flashing beacon traffic
91 control devices at each crosswalk described in subsection (1) or
92 subsection (2) with red rectangular rapid flashing beacon
93 traffic control devices within 12 months after the date of
94 federal authorization. If the Federal Government denies the
95 request, the applicable entity must remove all yellow
96 rectangular rapid flashing beacon traffic control devices from
97 each crosswalk described in subsection (1) or subsection (2) by
98 October 1, 2025. The entity with jurisdiction over such
99 crosswalk may retrofit the crosswalk with legally acceptable
100 equipment.

101 Section 3. The Legislature finds and declares that this
102 act fulfills an important state interest.

103 Section 4. This act shall take effect October 1, 2021.