



LAW ENFORCEMENT BULLETIN



MSI LE Bulletin 2021-07

NEW JERSEY SAFE PASSING BILL

SLOW DOWN, MOVE OVER



According to data from the New Jersey State Police Fatal Accident Investigation Unit, a total of 197 pedestrians and cyclists died in 2020 on state roadways, accounting for 34% of New Jersey's fatal crashes that year. New Jersey's rate of pedestrian fatalities increased 9% more than the national average last year as 197 people in the state lost their lives walking and bicycling. New Jersey had the eighth highest number of pedestrian deaths in the country in 2020.

On August 5, 2021, Gov. [Murphy signed into law legislation](#) that requires drivers to safely pass pedestrians, as well as people on bikes, scooters, or other means of conveyance.

It requires drivers to move over one lane when passing, if it is safe to do so, or allow four feet of space between the car and the person being passed. If that is not safe to do, it would require a driver to slow to 25 mph.

- If at all possible, the driver should change into a non-adjacent lane before getting closer than four feet.
- The driver should leave a reasonable, safe distance of at least four feet when approaching the protected users until they can pass safely.
- If those options are not possible, the driver must reduce their speed to 25 miles per hour and be prepared to stop.
- Violating these guidelines will result in a driver receiving a fine of \$500 and two motor vehicle points if bodily harm is caused. If no injury occurs, the fine is \$100.

It is recommended that law enforcement agencies consider an educational driver awareness campaign regarding this recent legislation.

This bulletin is intended for general information purposes only. It should not be construed as legal advice or legal opinion regarding any specific or factual situation. Always follow your organization's policies and procedures as presented by your manager or supervisor. For further information regarding this bulletin, contact your Safety Director at 877.398.3046.

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