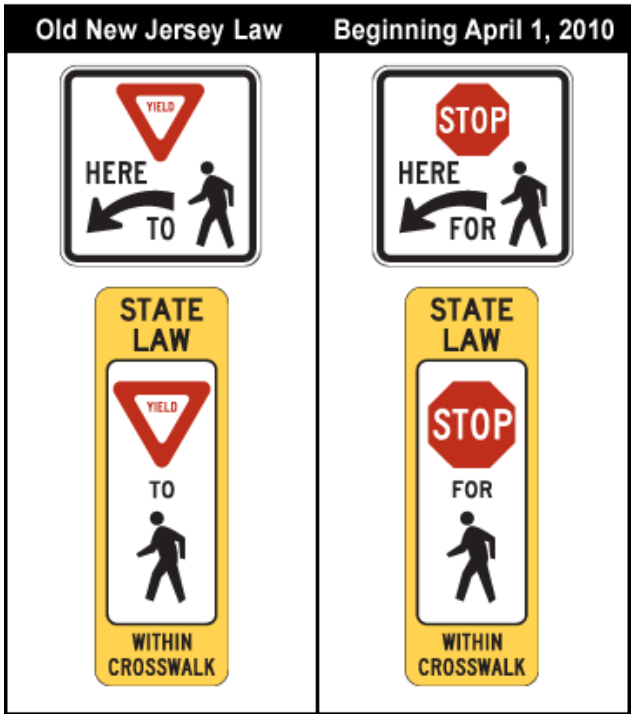
STOP and stay STOPPED

Stop for Pedestrians Bill is Now Law

With the passage of Assembly Bill No. 1329, drivers now risk $200 fines, 15-day community-service sentences and four points if they fail to bring their vehicles to complete stops at crosswalks to allow pedestrians to pass in front of them.

The New Law

- Requires drivers to **stop and remain stopped while a pedestrian is in a marked crosswalk**. Under previous law, motorists were required to yield to pedestrians in marked and unmarked crosswalks but were not obligated to stop and remain stopped.
- Requires drivers making a right turn at a red signal or at a stop or yield sign to **stop and remain stopped for pedestrians crossing within the adjacent crosswalk into which the motorist is turning**.
- Specifies that **a pedestrian crossing on a "Go" or green signal has the right of way over all vehicles, including those making turns**.
- Specifies that **vehicles must stop and remain stopped if a pedestrian is within one lane of their half of the roadway**.
- Retains previous requirements for drivers to **yield at unmarked crosswalks**.
- Provides that when a collision occurs between a vehicle and a pedestrian within a marked crosswalk, or at an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection, there is **a permissive inference that the driver did not exercise due care for the safety of the pedestrian.**

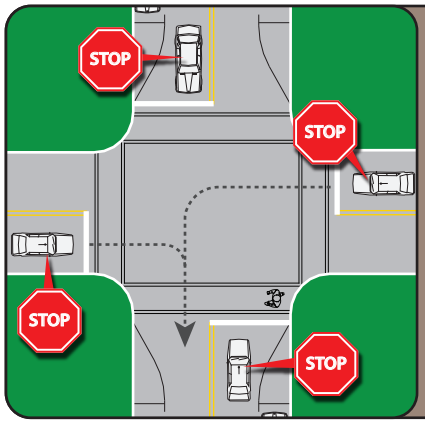


While the $200 fine doubles the existing penalty for crosswalk violations, the new law removes the potential for jail time and instead provides the ability for a judge to impose a 15-day community service sentence. Motorists are not the only ones subject to fines under the new law. Pedestrians also risk $200 fines and community service if they fail to yield the right-of-way to motorists anywhere except at crosswalks. The new law also retains language baring pedestrians from leaving "a curb or other place of safety" by walking or running "into the path of a vehicle which is so close that it is impossible for the driver to yield or stop."

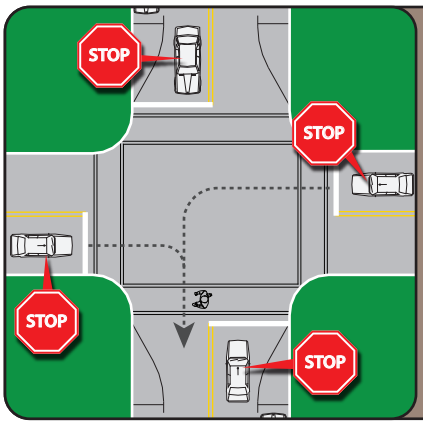
The graphics on the following pages illustrate key aspects of the legislation regarding stopping and staying stopped

New "stop and stay stopped" statute

One traffic lane in each direction.



1 Vehicles must stop and remain stopped if a pedestrian is in their half of the roadway or within one lane of their half of the roadway.

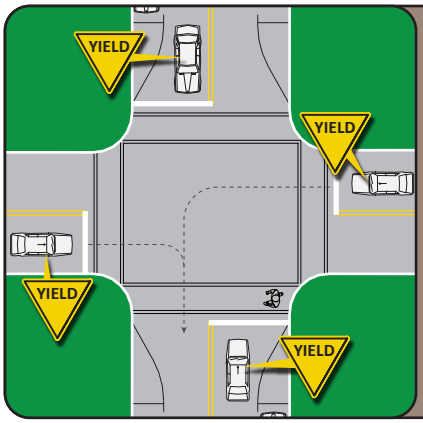


2 Vehicles must stop and remain stopped if a pedestrian is in their half of the roadway or within one lane of their half of the roadway.

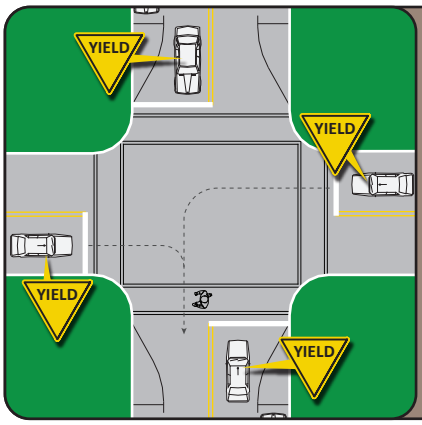
"...The driver of a vehicle shall stop and remain stopped to allow a pedestrian to cross the roadway within a marked crosswalk, when the pedestrian is upon, or within one lane of, the half of the roadway, upon which the vehicle is traveling or onto which it is turning.
"Half of the roadway" means all traffic lanes conveying traffic in one direction of travel.."

Old "yield" statute

One traffic lane in each direction.



1 Vehicles shall yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a crosswalk.



2 Vehicles shall yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a crosswalk.

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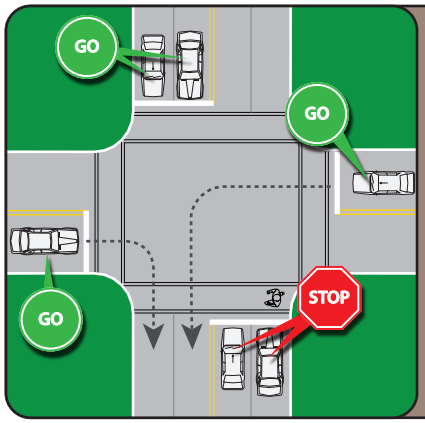
New "stop and stay stopped" statute

Two traffic lanes in each direction.



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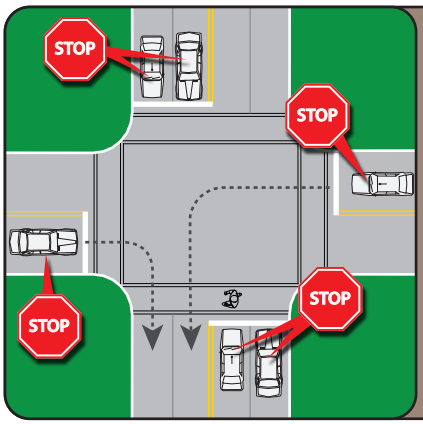

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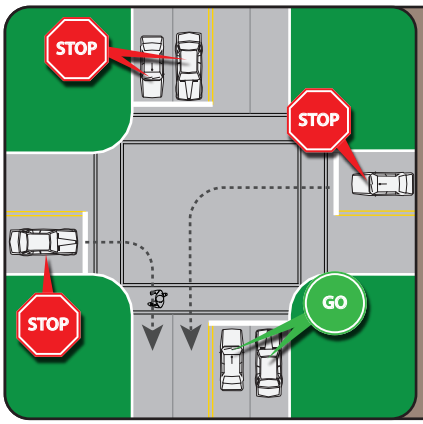

3 Vehicles may proceed once the pedestrian is beyond one lane away from their half of the roadway.

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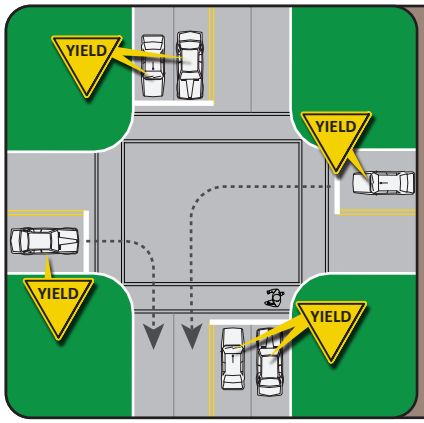

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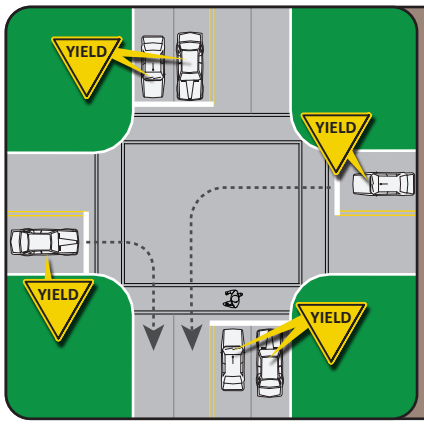

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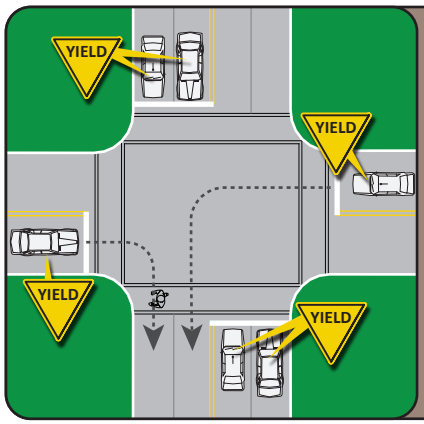

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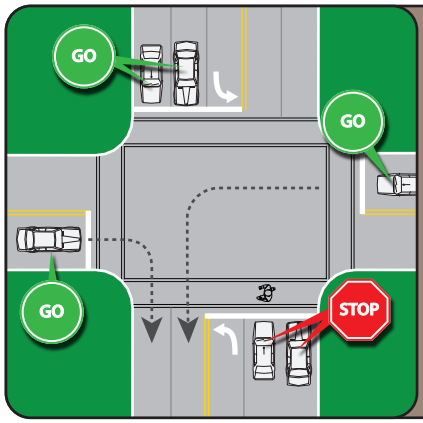
New "stop and stay stopped" statute

Two traffic lanes in each direction with left-hand turning lane.



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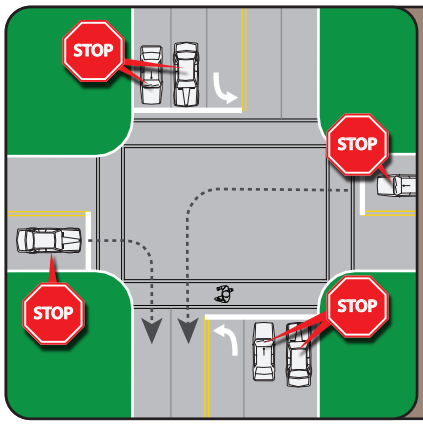

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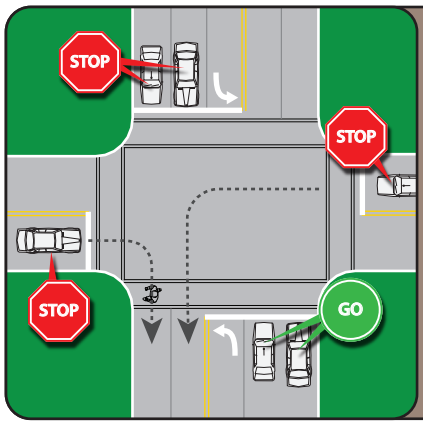

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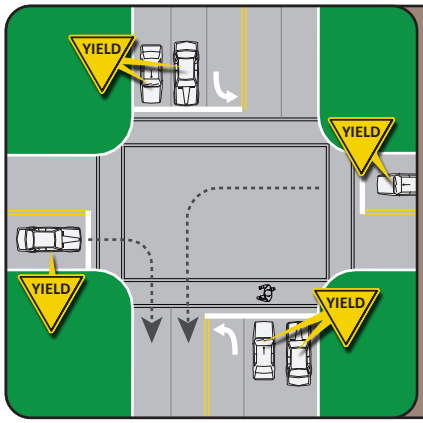

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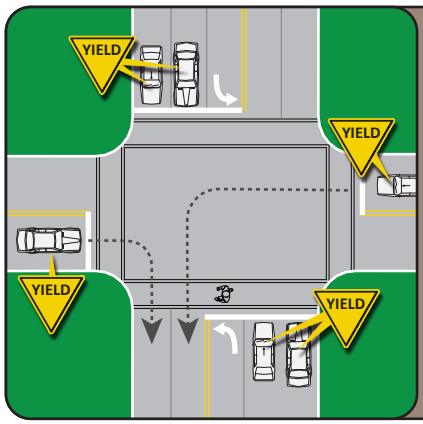

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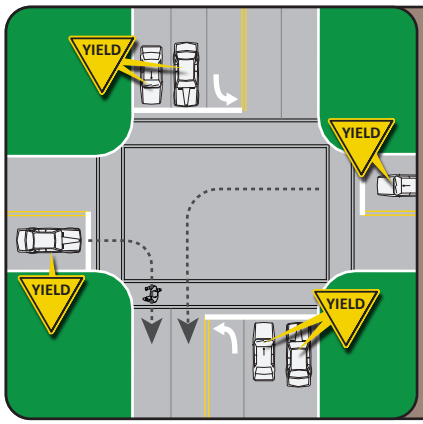

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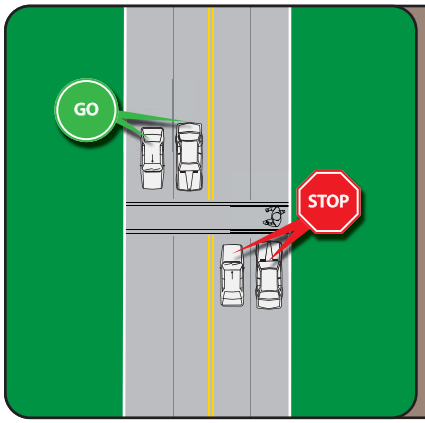
New "stop and stay stopped" statute

Mid-block crosswalk - Two traffic lanes in each direction.



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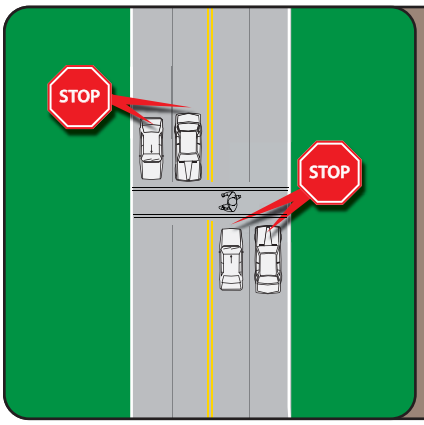

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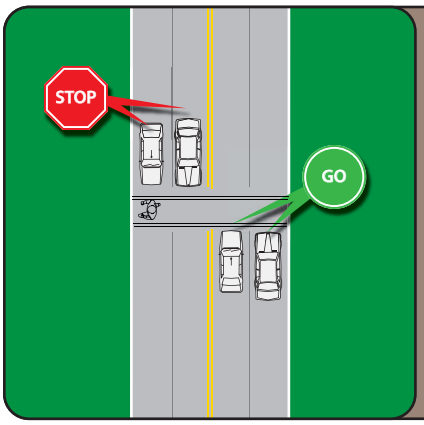

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