



117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1995

Legislative Document

No. 1557

S.P. 580

In Senate, June 1, 1995

An Act to Improve Bicycle Safety in This State.

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

May Th.

MAY M. ROSS Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BUSTIN of Kennebec. Cosponsored by Senators: GOLDTHWAIT of Hancock, McCORMICK of Kennebec, PARADIS of Aroostook, RAND of Cumberland, Representatives: ADAMS of Portland, GREEN of Monmouth, HARTNETT of Freeport, MITCHELL of Vassalboro.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

2 Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2063, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read: 4 Riding to the right. A person operating a bicycle upon 6 2. a roadway at a speed less than the normal speed of traffic moving in the same direction at the time shall ride it as far as 8 practicable to the right side of the way, except when making a left turn. Where a paved shoulder suitable for bicycle riding is 10 present, a person operating a bicycle may ride on the paved shoulder. This subsection does not apply in a municipality that, 12 by ordinance and with the approval of the Department of Public and the Department of Transportation, 14 Safety makes other provisions for the location of bicycle traffic. 16 Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §2071, sub-§5, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read: 18 Hand signals. Signals by hand and arm must be given by 20 5. the left arm from the left side of a vehicle in the following manner: 22 To indicate a left turn, the hand and arm must be 24 Α. extended horizontally; 26 To indicate a right turn, the hand and arm must be Β. extended upward, except that a person who is operating a 28 bicycle is not in violation of this subsection if the person signals a right turn by extending the person's right hand 30 and arm horizontally; and 32 To indicate a stop or a decrease in speed, the hand and C. 34 arm must be extended downward. 36 STATEMENT OF FACT 38 This bill amends the motor vehicle law to clarify that it is 40 legal for bicycles to travel in the normal stream of vehicular traffic when travelling in the same direction and at a similar This bill also clarifies that it is legal for bicyclists 42 speed. to travel on the shoulder and breakdown lane of roads and highways except where municipalities have made other provisions 44 for the location of bicycle traffic. 46 This bill further amends the motor vehicle law to allow the use of a bicycle rider's right arm, extended to the right 48 horizontally, to indicate a right turn. Signals performed with the right arm will improve bicycle safety by allowing increased 50 control over bicycle steering during a right turn. 52

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