

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



# 118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

---

Legislative Document

No. 1367

H.P. 987

House of Representatives, March 4, 1997

---

**An Act to Amend the Bicycle Provisions of the Maine Revised Statutes,  
Title 29-A in Order to Provide a Greater Measure of Safety for Travel by  
Bicyclists.**

---

Submitted by the Department of Transportation pursuant to Joint Rule 204.  
Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative CHARTRAND of Rockland.  
Cosponsored by Senator O'GARA of Cumberland and  
Representatives: COWGER of Hallowell, POWERS of Rockport, SHIAH of Bowdoinham,  
WHEELER of Eliot, Senator: HARRIMAN of Cumberland.

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

2           **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §101, sub-§9,** as enacted by PL 1993, c.  
4 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

6           **9. Bicycle.** ~~"Bicycle" means a device upon which a person~~  
7 ~~may ride that is~~ vehicle primarily propelled by human power and  
8 ~~that has 2 tandem wheels, either of which is more than 20 inches~~  
9 ~~in diameter~~ operated by a person seated on a seat and driven on  
10 the ground on wheels by the operator.

12           **Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §2053, sub-§2,** as enacted by PL 1993, c.  
14 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

16           **2. Slow-moving vehicles.** An operator of a vehicle or a  
17 bicycle moving slowly shall keep the vehicle or bicycle as close  
18 as practicable to the right-hand boundary of the public way,  
19 except bicycles operating on shoulders, bike lanes or other  
20 designated bicycle facilities, and allow faster moving vehicles  
reasonably free passage to the left.

22           **Sec. 3. 29-A MRSA §2063, sub-§§2 and 6,** as enacted by PL 1993,  
24 c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, are repealed.

26           **Sec. 4. 29-A MRSA §2063, sub-§7,** as enacted by PL 1993, c.  
28 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

30           **7. Penalties.** A person ~~17--years--of--age--or--over~~ who  
31 violates this section commits a traffic infraction ~~with a maximum~~  
32 and is subject to an instructional warning for a first offense, a  
fine of \$10 for a 2nd offense and a fine of \$50 for a 3rd or  
subsequent offense.

34           **Sec. 5. 29-A MRSA §2063, sub-§8,** as enacted by PL 1993, c.  
36 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is repealed.

38           **Sec. 6. 29-A MRSA §2071, sub-§7** is enacted to read:

40           **7. Return of hand to maintain control.** An operator of a  
41 bicycle may return the hand used to signal a turn to the  
42 handlebars within 50 feet of turning so that proper control of  
the bicycle by the operator is maintained.

44           **Sec. 7. 29-A MRSA §2084,** as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt.  
46 A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

48           **§2084. Bicycles**

50           **1. Night equipment.** A bicycle, motorized bicycle or  
51 tricycle, when in use in the nighttime or at other times when  
52 motor vehicles are required to display headlights, must have:

- 2 A. Lighted a front light that emits a white light visible  
from a distance of at least 200 500 feet to the front;
- 4 B. A red or yellow light or red reflector to the rear that  
is visible at least 200 500 feet to the rear; and
- 6 C. Reflector strips on the pedals and handlebars.

8  
10 Optional supplementary reflectors, lights or reflective or  
12 lighted safety equipment may be used at the discretion of the  
bicyclist.

14 **2. Brakes.** A bicycle, motorized bicycle or tricycle must  
be equipped with a brake sufficient to enable the operator to  
stop the vehicle within a reasonable distance.

16 **3. Other equipment.** A bicycle, motorized bicycle or  
18 tricycle may be equipped with a properly affixed:

20 A. Child passenger seat designed specifically to transport  
22 a child by bicycle;

24 B. Child passenger trailer designed specifically to  
transport a child by bicycle;

26 C. Trailer designed specifically to transport goods by  
28 bicycle; or

30 D. Bags, baskets, panniers or other equipment designed  
specifically for use on bicycles.

32  
34 **SUMMARY**

36 The purpose of this bill is to resolve inconsistencies in  
38 existing law among provisions affecting bicyclists, brings all  
bicycle safety provisions to highest standards and best practice  
40 and simplifies provisions for bicyclists by including bicyclists  
and bicycles under existing vehicle provisions.