

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
120TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 263, L.D. 312, Bill, "An Act to Modernize the Laws Regarding Bicycle Safety"

Amend the bill by striking out all of sections 1 and 2 and inserting in their place the following:

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

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

Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §2060, sub-§1-A is enacted to read:

1-A. Right turns near bicyclists. A person operating a vehicle that passes a person operating a bicycle and proceeding in the same direction may not make a right turn at any intersection or into any road or way unless the turn can be made with reasonable safety.

Sec. 3. 29-A MRSA §2063, sub-§2-A is enacted to read:

2-A. Bicycle riding on shoulder. Notwithstanding subsection 2, a person operating a bicycle may travel on paved shoulders.'

Further amend the bill in section 3 in subsection 5 by striking out all of the blocked paragraph (page 1, lines 43 to 45 in L.D.) and inserting in its place the following:

'A person operating a bicycle may return the hand used to signal a turn to the handlebars during the turn to maintain proper control of the bicycle.'

Further amend the bill by striking out all of section 4 and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 4. 29-A MRSA §2084, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

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

A. Lighted a front light that emits a white light visible from a distance of at least 200 feet to the front;

B. A red or amber light or reflector to the rear that is visible at least 200 feet to the rear; and

C. Reflector strips material on the pedals ~~and-handlebars~~.

A bicyclist must have reflector material on the foot or ankle. A bicyclist may also use optional supplementary reflectors, lights or reflective or lighted safety equipment.'

Further amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the summary the following:

'FISCAL NOTE

The additional workload and administrative costs associated with the minimal number of new cases filed in the court system can be absorbed within the budgeted resources of the Judicial Department. The collection of additional fines may increase General Fund revenue by minor amounts.

The Bureau of State Police within the Department of Public Safety will incur some minor additional costs to adopt certain

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rules pertaining to bicycle safety. These costs can be absorbed within the bureau's existing budgeted resources.'

SUMMARY

This amendment changes the general definition of "bicycle" in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29-A to be consistent with the definition of the Bicycle Safety Education Act. The amendment clarifies that bicycle operators are permitted to travel on paved shoulders and that bicycle operators may replace their hands on the handlebars after signaling a turn. The amendment updates the statutes regarding night equipment to reflect current equipment and practices. The amendment clarifies that vehicles must yield to bicyclists when making right turns. This amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.