

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

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Legislative Document

No. 312

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H.P. 263

House of Representatives, January 30, 2001

**An Act to Modernize the Laws Regarding Bicycle Safety.**

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Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative KOFFMAN of Bar Harbor.  
Cosponsored by Senator SAWYER of Penobscot and  
Representatives: ANNIS of Dover-Foxcroft, BAKER of Bangor, CANAVAN of Waterville,  
COWGER of Hallowell, DAIGLE of Arundel, DUPLESSIE of Westbrook, McLAUGHLIN  
of Cape Elizabeth, TWOMEY of Biddeford.

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

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**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~~ vehicle 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 §2063, sub-§2,** as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

**2. Riding to the right.** A person operating a bicycle shall ride it as far as practicable to the right side of the way, and may travel on paved shoulders on the right side of the way, except when making a left turn. This subsection does not apply in a municipality that, by ordinance and with the approval of the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Transportation, makes other provisions for the location of bicycle traffic.

**Sec. 3. 29-A MRSA §2071, sub-§5,** as amended by PL 1995, c. 371, §2, is further amended to read:

**5. Hand signals.** Signals by hand and arm must be given by the left arm from the left side of a vehicle in the following manner:

- A. To indicate a left turn, the hand and arm must be extended horizontally;
- B. To indicate a right turn, the hand and arm must be extended upward, except that a person who is operating a bicycle is not in violation of this subsection if the person signals a right turn by extending the person's right hand and arm horizontally; and
- C. To indicate a stop or a decrease in speed, the hand and arm must be extended downward.

A person who operates a bicycle shall make a hand signal for a turn prior to the turn. Both hands must be on the bicycle handles during the turn.

**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 repealed and the following enacted in its place:

2 1. Night equipment. The Chief of the State Police shall  
3 adopt rules governing the use of lights and reflectors. Rules  
4 adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules  
5 pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A.

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### SUMMARY

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10 This bill changes the general definition of "bicycle" in the  
11 Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29-A, to be consistent with the  
12 definition in the Bicycle Safety Education Act. The bill  
13 clarifies that bicycle operators are permitted to travel on paved  
14 shoulders and that bicycle operators are required to replace  
15 their hands on the handlebars after signaling a turn but before  
16 turning. Finally, the bill requires the Chief of the State  
Police to develop new rules for the use of lights and reflectors.