

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 71**

H. P. 53

House of Representatives, January 16, 1957.

Referred to the Committee on Legal Affairs, sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Hendricks of Portland.

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**STATE OF MAINE**

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FIFTY-SEVEN

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**AN ACT Relating to the Operation of Bicycles and Play Vehicles.**

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

**R. S., c. 22, §§ 147-A - 147-G, additional.** Chapter 22 of the Revised Statutes is hereby amended by adding thereto 7 new sections to be numbered 147-A to 147-G, inclusive, to read as follows:

**‘Operation of Bicycles and Play Vehicles.**

**Sec. 147-A. Effect of regulations.** It is a misdemeanor for any person to do any act forbidden or fail to perform any act required by the provisions of sections 147-A to 147-G, inclusive.

The parent of any child and the guardian of any ward shall not authorize or knowingly permit any such child or ward to violate any of the provisions of sections 147-A to 147-G, inclusive.

These regulations applicable to bicycles shall apply whenever a bicycle is operated upon any highway or upon any path set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles subject to those exceptions stated.

Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$10 or in lieu thereof the bicycle may be taken into custody and impounded by the duly authorized enforcement officer for a period not to exceed 30 days.

**Sec. 147-B. Traffic laws apply to persons riding bicycles.** Every person riding a bicycle upon ways shall be granted all of the rights and shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle by the provisions of sec-

tions 147-A to 147-G, inclusive, except as to special regulations in sections 147-A to 147-G, inclusive, and except as to those provisions of sections 147-A to 147-G, inclusive, which by their nature have no application.

Sec. 147-C. Riding on bicycles. A person propelling a bicycle shall not ride other than upon or astride a permanent and regular seat attached thereto.

No bicycle shall be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped.

Sec. 147-D. Clinging to vehicles. No person riding upon any bicycle, coaster, roller skates, sled or toy vehicle shall attach the same or himself to any moving vehicle upon a way.

Sec. 147-E. Riding on ways and bicycle paths. Every person operating a bicycle upon a way shall ride as near to the right side of the way as practicable, exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction.

No person shall ride abreast or to the left of any person riding or propelling a bicycle.

Whenever a usable path for bicycles has been provided adjacent to a way, bicycle riders shall use such path and shall not use the way.

No rider of a bicycle shall remove both hands from the handle bars, or feet from the pedals, or practice acrobatic or fancy riding on any streets.

Sec. 147-F. Carrying articles. No person operating a bicycle shall carry any package, bundle or article which prevents the driver from keeping at least one hand upon the handle bars.

Sec. 147-G. Lamps and other equipment on bicycles. Every bicycle when in use at nighttime shall be equipped with a lamp on the front which shall emit a white light visible from a distance of at least 200 feet to the front and with a red reflector on the rear which shall be visible for at least 50 feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful upper beams of head lamps on a motor vehicle. A lamp emitting a red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear may be used in addition to the red reflector.

No person shall operate a bicycle unless it is equipped with a bell or other device capable of giving a signal audible for a distance of at least 100 feet, except that a bicycle shall not be equipped with nor shall any person use upon a bicycle any siren or whistle.

Every bicycle shall be equipped with a brake which will enable the operator to make the braked wheels skid on dry, level, clean pavement.'