

CHAPTER 373
Bicycles and Motorcycles

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CROSS REFERENCES

See sectional histories for similar State law

Bicycle defined - see TRAF. 301.04

Motorcycle defined - see TRAF. 301.19

Bicycles prohibited on freeways - see TRAF. 303.06

Motorcycle operator's license required - see TRAF. 335.01(a)

Motorcycle headlight - see TRAF. 337.03

Motorcycle brakes - see TRAF. 337.18(b)

373.01 CODE APPLICATION TO BICYCLES.

The provisions of this Traffic Code which are applicable to bicycles apply whenever a bicycle is operated upon any street or upon any path set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles. (ORC 4511.52)

The provisions of this Traffic Code shall apply to bicycles except those which by their nature are not applicable.

373.02 RIDING UPON SEATS; HANDLE BARS; HELMETS AND GLASSES.

(a) For purposes of this section "snowmobile" has the same meaning as given that term in Ohio R. C. 4519.01.

(b) A person operating a bicycle or motorcycle shall not ride other than upon the permanent and regular seat attached thereto, nor carry any other person upon such bicycle or motorcycle other than upon a firmly attached and regular seat thereon, nor shall any person ride upon a bicycle or motorcycle other than upon such a firmly attached and regular seat.

(c) A person shall ride upon a motorcycle only while sitting astride the seat, facing forward, with one leg on each side of the motorcycle.

(d) No person operating a bicycle shall carry any package, bundle or article that prevents the driver from keeping at least one hand upon the handle bars.

(e) No bicycle or motorcycle shall be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped, nor shall any motorcycle be operated on a highway when the handle bars or grips are more than fifteen inches higher than the seat or saddle for the operator.

(f) No person shall operate or be a passenger on a snowmobile or motorcycle without using safety glasses or other protective eye device. No person who is under the age of eighteen (18) years, or who holds a motorcycle operators endorsement or license bearing a "novice" designation that is currently in effect as provided in Section 4507.13 of the Revised Code of Ohio, shall operate a motorcycle on a highway or be a passenger on a motorcycle unless wearing a protective helmet on his head, and no other person shall be a passenger on a motorcycle operated by such a person unless similarly wearing a protective helmet. The helmet, safety glasses, or other protective eye device, shall conform with regulations prescribed and promulgated by the Ohio Department of Highway Safety. The provisions of this paragraph or a violation thereof shall not be used in the trial of any civil action.

(ORC 4511.53)

373.03 ATTACHING BICYCLE OR SLED TO VEHICLE.

No person riding upon any motorcycle, bicycle, coaster, roller skates, sled or toy vehicle shall attach the same or himself to any vehicle upon a roadway.

No operator shall knowingly permit any person riding upon any motorcycle, bicycle, coaster, roller skates, sled or toy vehicle to attach the same or himself to any vehicle while it is moving upon a roadway. This section does not apply to the towing of a disabled vehicle. (ORD 4511.54)

373.04 RIDING BICYCLES AND MOTORCYCLES ABBREAST.

Persons riding bicycles or motorcycles upon a roadway shall ride not more than two abreast in a single lane, except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles or motorcycles. (ORC 4511.55 (B))

373.05 SIGNAL DEVICE ON BICYCLE

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. (ORD 4511.56 (B))

373.06 LIGHTS AND REFLECTORS ON BICYCLE; BRAKES.

(a) Every bicycle when in use at the times specified in Section 337.02, shall be equipped with a light on the front that shall emit a white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front and with a red reflector on the rear of a type approved by the Ohio Director of Highway Safety that shall be visible from all distances from 100 feet to 600 feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful lower beams of headlights on a motor vehicle and a light emitting a red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear shall be used in addition to the red reflector.

(b) Every bicycle shall be equipped with an adequate brake when used on a street or highway. (ORC 4511.56(A), (C))

373.07 RIDING BICYCLE ON RIGHT SIDE OF ROADWAY; OBEDIENCE TO TRAFFIC RULES; PASSING.

Every person operating a bicycle upon a roadway shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable obeying all traffic rules applicable to vehicles and exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction. (ORC 4511.55(A))

373.08 BICYCLE RIDING REGULATIONS.

(a) Any person operating a bicycle shall obey the instructions of official traffic control signals, signs and other control devices applicable to vehicles, unless otherwise directed by a police officer.

(b) Wherever a designated usable path for bicycles has been provided adjacent to a street, bicycle riders shall use such path and shall not use the street.

(c) Any person operating a bicycle may ride upon the sidewalk rather than roadway when sidewalks are available. However, no person shall ride a bicycle upon a sidewalk where it is prohibited, or within the business district.

(d) Whenever a person is riding a bicycle upon a sidewalk or street, such a person shall yield the right of way to any pedestrian and shall give an audible signal before attempting to overtake and pass a pedestrian or another bicycle. This audible signal must be given only by bell or other warning device capable of giving an audible signal and shall be given at least fifteen feet behind such pedestrian or other bicycle.

(e) Whenever a person is riding a bicycle upon a sidewalk, the person before overtaking and passing a blind person carrying a white cane shall dismount and overtake or pass on foot.

(f) When a bicycle is operated on the street, the operator shall give hand signals before turning, changing lanes, or stopping. Such signals shall conform with the Motor Vehicle Laws of Ohio.

(g) Every rider of a bicycle shall exercise due care to avoid colliding with any pedestrian or any vehicle upon any roadway, sidewalk or bicycle path, or endangering the life, limb or property of any person while in the lawful use of the streets, sidewalks or any other private or public property.

(h) No person shall operate a bicycle at a speed greater than is reasonable and proper under the conditions then existing or at a speed in excess of the official posted speed limit.

(i) The operator of a bicycle emerging from an alley, driveway or building shall upon approaching a sidewalk or the sidewalk area extending across any alley or driveway

yield the right of way to all pedestrians approaching on such sidewalk area and upon entering the street shall yield the right of way to all vehicles approaching on such street.

(j) No person on the public right of way shall engage in trick riding or operate a bicycle without both hands upon the handle grips except when necessary to give the hand signals required herein or to apply brakes.

(k) No person shall park a bicycle upon a sidewalk in such a manner as to interfere with pedestrian traffic or damage the property of another, nor shall any person attach a bicycle by any means to any tree or other property not specifically designed for the purpose of accommodating bicycles.

(l) No person shall park a bicycle upon a roadway in such a manner as to interfere with vehicular traffic. (Ord. 1306. Passed 4-2-74.)

373.09 LICENSE REQUIRED; REGISTRATION.

(a) No person who has resided within the City for thirty days or more shall ride a bicycle upon any sidewalk, street, public way or public path set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles unless such bicycle has been licensed by the licensing authority and the license is attached thereto as provided herein. However, a license shall not be required for bicycles owned by dealers and possessed for retail sale. "Licensing authority" means the Police Chief or other person designated by the Mayor.

(b) Application for license or renewal of license of a bicycle shall be made to the licensing authority upon an approved application form furnished by the licensing authority. Applicant shall state his name and address, make, color, serial number, if any, and/or, other identifying features of the bicycle, as well as any other pertinent information as may be required by the licensing authority.

(c) Upon receipt of completed application for license of or renewal of license, and required fee, and after a safety inspection to insure that the bicycle is equipped with lights, reflector, a sounding device, and brakes, the licensing authority shall issue a license or renewal thereof, valid for a four year period.

(d) The licensing authority shall issue a reflective sticker bearing the same number as the license application form which shall be affixed to the lower portion of the rear fender or if there are no fenders, on the bicycle centerpost. The license sticker issued is not transferable and shall be removed from the bicycle and destroyed upon sale or transfer of the bicycle.

(e) It shall be unlawful to willfully or maliciously alter, remove, mutilate, obliterate, destroy, conceal or obscure any identifying number or mark on the frame of a bicycle.

(f) It shall be unlawful to remove, destroy, mutilate or alter any bicycle license during the time in which such license is effective except as provided by subsection (d) hereof.

(g) It shall be the duty of the owner of every bicycle to keep the same in good repair and in condition to be ridden and operated safely, and equipped as specified in this chapter. If any licensed bicycle is found by the police to be in an unsafe condition or to lack equipment which would cause an application for a license to be rejected, they shall forthwith revoke such license, by suspending the same until such bicycle is restored to a condition of safety. (Ord. 1306. Passed 4-2-74.)

373.99 PENALTY.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: See Section 303.99 for misdemeanor classifications and penalties.)