



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

IN THE YEAR ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-TWO

## AN ACT CLARIFYING THE LAWS REGULATING THE OPERATION OF BICYCLES.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled,  
and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 11B of Chapter 85 of the General Laws, as appearing in section 4 of chapter 518 of the acts of 1961 and most recently amended by chapter 346 of the acts of 1962, is hereby amended by striking it out and inserting in place thereof the following new section:--

### SECTION 11B. Operation of Bucycles

(1) Every person riding a bicycle on a roadway shall be granted all the rights and shall be subject to all the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle by the laws of the Commonwealth declaring rules of the road applicable to vehicles or by ordinances of the several cities and towns of the Commonwealth applicable to the driver of a vehicle, except as those provisions of laws and ordinances which by their nature have no application.

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

(3) Whenever authorized signs are erected indicating that no right, left, or "U" turn is permitted, no person operating a bicycle shall disobey the direction of any such sign, except where such person dismounts from the bicycle to make any such turn, in which case such person shall then obey the regulations applicable to pedestrians.

(4) No person riding or operating a bicycle shall carry another person on said bicycle, unless such person or passenger is seated upon an individual seat or carrier separate from that intended to be used by the operator. No person shall ride upon a bicycle as a passenger unless he is seated in an individual seat or carrier separate from that intended to be used by the operator.

(5) A person riding a bicycle shall not not ride other than astride a permanent and regular seat attached thereto.

(6) Every person operating a bicycle on a roadway shall

exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction.

(7) Persons riding bicycles on a roadway shall ride single file except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles.

*OR. Basis*  
(8) Whenever a usable path for bicycles has been provided adjacent to a roadway, bicycle riders shall use such path and shall not use the roadway.

*?*  
(9) No person shall operate a bicycle at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions then existing, and in no case shall the speed of a bicycle exceed the speed limit posted for other moving vehicles.

*the area*  
(10) The operator of a bicycle emerging from an alley, driveway, or building shall upon approaching a sidewalk or the sidewalk area extending across an alleyway, yield the right of way to all pedestrians approaching on said sidewalk or sidewalk area, and upon entering the roadway shall yield the right of way to all vehicles approaching on the said roadway.

(11) No operator of a bicycle upon any way as defined in section one of chapter ninety shall permit it to be drawn by

(12) No person operating a bicycle shall tow any other vehicle or person, except that bicycle trailers used for the delivery of newspapers and magazines may be towed when being used in such delivery service.

(13) No person operating a bicycle shall carry any package, bundle or article which prevents the rider from having full control of the bicycle at all times. In no case shall the rider carry any article which prevents him from keeping at least one hand on the handlebars at all times.

(14) No person shall park a bicycle upon a street other than upon a roadway against the curb or upon a sidewalk in a rack to support the bicycle against a building or at the curb, in such manner as to afford the least obstruction to pedestrian traffic.

(15) No person shall ride a bicycle upon a sidewalk within a business district. Any city or town may designate any sidewalk as illegal for bicycle traffic and erect signs stating the same.

(16) Whenever any person is riding a bicycle on a sidewalk, such person shall yield the right of way to any pedestrian and shall give audible signal before overtaking and passing such pedestrian.

(17) Every bicycle operated during the period one half an hour after sunset and one half an hour before sunrise shall display on the front a white light which shall be visible for not less than five-hundred feet in the direction toward which the bicycle is proceeding or facing, and on the rear a reflector visible for not less than less than three hundred feet to the rear when in the lower beams of the headlamps of a motor vehicle.

(18) Every bicycle operated during the period one half an hour after sunset and one half an hour before sunrise shall display reflective material on the pedals and on the lower portion of the rear fender and on the upper portion of both sides of the front fork, on an area of about five square inches in each case.

(19) No bicycle shall be operated unless equipped with a suitable bell or horn or other device capable of giving a signal audible for at least one hundred feet, except that no bicycle shall be equipped with nor shall any person use upon a bicycle a siren or whistle.

(20) Every bicycle shall be equipped with (an) adequate brakes which will enable the operator to stop the bicycle quickly and evenly. *in all weather.*

(21) Violation of any provision of this section shall be punished by a fine of three dollars. Any such by a minor under the age of eighteen shall not be considered a criminal offense.

(22) If a minor under the age of eighteen operate a bicycle in violation of any such provision the police department or, in a town which has no organized police department, the selectmen, may, with the consent of the parent or guardian of such minor, impound such bicycle for a period not to exceed fifteen days.

(23) This section shall apply only to a bicycle at least one wheel of which exceeds sixteen inches in diameter.

(24) A violation of any provision of this section by a minor under the age of eighteen shall not affect any civil right or liability.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled.

The undersigned, citizen of....., respectfully petitions for the passage of the accompanying bill and/or for legislation

Paul Dudley White, M.D. 115 Juniper Rd, Belmont.

Willie Holtinshell

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