

39:4-14.2

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

HJSA 39:4-14.2 (Bicycles--traffic regulations.)

LAWS OF 1977 CHAPTER 388

Bill No. S518

Sponsor(s) McDonough & Orechio

Date Introduced Pre-filed

Committee: Assembly Transportation & Communications

Senate Law, Public Safety & Defense

Amended during passage Yes *** Amendments during passage denoted by asterisks

Date of Passage: Assembly October 3, 1977

Senate June 10, 1976

Date of approval February 23, 1978

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement Yes ***

Committee Statement: Assembly Yes ***

Senate Yes ***

Fiscal Note XYes No

Veto Message XYes No

Message on signing XYes No

Following were printed:

Reports XYesX No

Hearings XYesX No

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SENATE, No. 518

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1976 SESSION

By Senators McDONOUGH and ORECHIO

AN ACT to amend "An act concerning traffic regulations, and amending and supplementing chapter 4 of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes and certain other statutes relating thereto," approved April 5, 1951 (P. L. 1951, c. 23).

1 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
2 *of New Jersey:*

1 1. Section 17 of P. L. 1951, c. 23 (C. 39:4-14.2) is amended to
2 read as follows:

3 17. Every person operating a bicycle upon a roadway shall ride
4 as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable, exercising
5 due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the
6 same direction; *provided, however, that any person may move to*
7 *the left under any of the following situations:*

8 (a) *to make a left turn from a left-turn lane or pocket;*

9 (b) *to avoid debris, drains or other hazardous conditions that*
10 *make it impractical to ride at the right side of the roadway;*

11 ***[(c)]** *to occupy a full lane to avoid being forced off the roadway*
12 *when the lane is too narrow for a vehicle to pass safely in the lane;*
13 *provided, however, that the bicycle operator shall make every effort*
14 *to permit the passage of vehicular traffic, and shall dismount or*
15 *turn off the roadway to allow the passage of such traffic whenever*
16 *three or more vehicles are impeded;]**

17 ***[(d)]** *to pass a slower moving vehicle;*

18 ***[(e)]** *to occupy any available lane when traveling at the*
19 *same speed as other traffic;*

20 ***[(f)]** *to travel no more than two abreast when traffic is*
21 *not impeded.*

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

22 Persons riding bicycles upon a roadway *may travel no more than*
23 *two abreast when traffic is not impeded, but otherwise* shall ride
24 in single file except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the
25 exclusive use of bicycles.

26 Wherever a usable path for bicycles has been provided adjacent
27 to a roadway, bicycle riders shall use such path and shall not use
28 the roadway.

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

5518(1977)

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26 Wherever a usable path for bicycles has been provided adjacent
27 to a roadway, bicycle riders shall use such path and shall not use
28 the roadway.

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

Existing law provides that bicycles must be operated as close to the right edge of the roadway as possible. This requirement, enacted in 1951, is no longer completely realistic or desirable in light of the phenomenal growth in the use of bicycles for meeting transportation and recreational needs. This bill specifies a variety of situations under which a bicyclist may move to the left on a roadway.

ASSEMBLY TRANSPORTATION AND
COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE No. 518

with Assembly committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: APRIL 21, 1977

This bill grows out of the need for a provision in the law to allow operators of bicycles to move to the left or occupy a lane of a roadway under certain circumstances. The existing law simply states that riders are required to move as far to the right as practicable. Under this bill they may move left to make left turns from designated left turn lanes, to avoid hazards, and to pass slower moving vehicles. They may also occupy a lane where moving the same speed as other traffic and may ride no more than two abreast if traffic is not thereby impeded.

The committee amended Senate Bill No. 518 by removing a provision from the bill permitting bicycle riders under certain conditions to occupy a full lane to avoid being forced off the roadway when the lane is too narrow for a vehicle to pass safely in the lane. The amendment was made in response to the Division of Motor Vehicle's position that enactment of the aforementioned provision would create a safety hazard caused by bicyclists not always being visible by motorists.

SENATE LAW, PUBLIC SAFETY AND
DEFENSE COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO
SENATE No. 518

—•—
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
—•—

DATED: MAY 7, 1976

This bill grows out of the need for a provision in the law to allow operators of bicycles to move to the left or occupy a lane of a roadway under certain circumstances. The existing law simply states that riders are required to move as far to the right as practicable. Under this bill they may move left to make left turns from designated left turn lanes, to avoid hazards, and to pass slower moving vehicles. They may occupy a lane to avoid being forced off a narrow roadway subject to a requirement to make all reasonable efforts to permit passage of vehicles, and may also occupy a lane where moving the same speed as other traffic. Finally riders may ride no more than two abreast if traffic is not thereby impeded.