

56-5-3420 A person riding a bicycle upon a roadway must be granted all of the rights and is subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle by this chapter, except as to special provisions in this article and except as to those provisions of this chapter which by their nature can have no application.

56-5-3425 (A) For purposes of this section, 'bicycle lane' means a portion of the roadway or a paved lane separated from the roadway that has been designated by striping, pavement markings, and signage for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists. (B) Whenever a bicycle lane has been provided adjacent to a roadway, operators of: (1) motor vehicles may not block the bicycle lane to oncoming bicycle traffic and shall yield to a bicyclist in the bicycle lane before entering or crossing the lane; and (2) bicycles are required to ride in the bicycle lane except when necessary to pass another person riding a bicycle or to avoid an obstruction in the bicycle lane. However, bicyclists may ride on the roadway when there is only an adjacent recreational bicycle path available instead of a bicycle lane.

56-5-3430 (A) Except as provided in subsection (B), every bicyclist operating a bicycle upon a roadway shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable. A bicyclist may, but is not required to, ride on the shoulder of the roadway in order to comply with the requirements of this subsection. (B) A bicyclist may ride in a lane other than the right-hand lane if only one lane is available that permits the bicyclist to continue on his intended route. (C) When operating a bicycle upon a roadway, a bicyclist must exercise due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction. **(Continued on right)**

56-5-3430 (continued from left) Bicyclists riding bicycles upon a roadway shall not ride more than two abreast except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles.

56-5-3435 A driver of a motor vehicle must at all times maintain a safe operating distance between the motor vehicle and a bicycle.

56-5-3440 A bicyclist propelling a bicycle may not ride other than upon or astride a permanent and regular seat attached to the bicycle. No bicycle may be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped.

56-5-3445 It is unlawful to harass, taunt, or maliciously throw an object at or in the direction of any person riding a bicycle. A person who violates the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not less than \$250 or imprisoned not more than 30 days, or both.

56-5-3450 A person riding upon any bicycle, coaster, roller skates, sled, or toy vehicle may not attach it or them or himself to a vehicle upon a roadway.

56-5-3460 A bicyclist operating a bicycle may not carry any package, bundle, or article that prevents the rider from keeping at least one hand upon the handle bars.

56-5-3470 A bicycle when in use at nighttime must be equipped with a lamp on the front which must emit a white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front and with a red reflector on the rear that must be visible from all distances from 50 feet to 300 feet to the rear **(continued on back)**

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56-5-3470 (continued from inside) when directly in front of the 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.

56-5-3480 (A)(1) A bicyclist shall indicate a right turn by extending the left arm upward, by raising the left arm to the square, or by extending the right arm horizontally to the right. (2) A bicyclist shall indicate a left turn by extending the left arm horizontally. (3) A bicyclist shall indicate stopping or decreasing speed by extending the left arm or the right arm downward. (B) A bicyclist is not required to give signals provided for in subsection (A) continuously if the hand or arm is needed to control the bicycle. (C) A violation of this section is punishable by a fine of \$25.

56-5-3490 A bicycle must be equipped with a brake that will enable the bicyclist to make the braked wheels skid on dry, level, clean pavement. A violation of this section is punishable by a fine of \$25.

56-5-3500 (A) Except as otherwise provided, in the absence of another violation being cited, a violation of this article by the driver of a motor vehicle is subject to a civil fine of up to \$100 unless a bicyclist is injured as a result of the violation. (B) In the absence of another violation being cited, a person driving a motor vehicle who violates a provision of his article and the violation is the proximate cause of a: (1) minor injury to a bicyclist, must be assessed a civil fine of up to \$500; or (2) great bodily injury, as defined in Section 56-5-2945, to a bicyclist, must be assessed a civil fine of not more than \$1000.

Be an informed bicyclist. Make choices for safe & lawful riding.

The purpose of this guide is to promote awareness of and encourage compliance with South Carolina's bicycle laws among cyclists, motorists and the law enforcement community. All sections of Article 27 are listed within. To learn more about bicycle advocacy, safety and education in South Carolina visit the Palmetto Cycling Coalition's website at www.pccsc.net.

This guide is made available through the generous support of:



SCBIKELAW.COM, a website created by cycling advocate Peter Wilborn and supported by his law practice, is an excellent legal and advocacy resource for all bicyclists.

SOUTH CAROLINA Bicycle LAWS

ARTICLE 27—BICYCLISTS AND
USERS OF PLAY VEHICLES;
RIGHTS AND DUTIES

Legislation advocated by:



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