

CHAPTER 373
Bicycles and Motorcycles

373.01 Code application to bicycles. 373.02 Riding upon seats; handle bars; helmets and glasses. 373.03 Attaching bicycle or sled to vehicle. 373.04 Riding bicycles and motorcycles abreast. 373.05 Lights and reflector on bicycle; brakes. 373.06 Riding bicycle on right side of roadway; obedience to traffic rules; passing.	373.07 Reckless operation; control, course and speed. 373.08 Parking of bicycle. 373.09 Motorized bicycle operation, equipment and license. 373.10 Bicycle riding upon sidewalks. 373.11 Designation of usable paths for bicycles. 373.12 Paths exclusively for bicycles. 373.13 Impounding. 373.99 Penalty.
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CROSS REFERENCES

See sectional histories for similar State law
 Motorcycle protective equipment - see OAC Ch. 4501-17
 Motorized bicycle equipment - see OAC Ch. 4501-23
 Bicycle defined - see TRAF. 301.04
 Motorcycle defined - see TRAF. 301.19
 Bicycles prohibited on freeways - see TRAF. 303.06
 Hand and arm signals - see TRAF. 331.15
 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.

(a) The provisions of this Traffic Code that 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.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, a bicycle operator who violates any section of this Traffic Code described in subsection (a) of this section that is applicable to bicycles may be issued a ticket, citation or summons by a law enforcement officer for the violation in the same manner as the operator of a motor vehicle would be cited for the same violation. A person who commits any such violation while operating a bicycle shall not have any points assessed against the person's driver's license, commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit, or probationary license under Ohio R.C. 4510.036.

(c) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, in the case of a violation of any section of this Traffic Code described in subsection (a) of this section by a bicycle operator or by a motor vehicle operator when the trier of fact finds that the violation by the motor vehicle operator endangered the lives of bicycle riders at the time of the violation, the court, notwithstanding any provision of this Traffic Code to the contrary, may require the bicycle operator or motor vehicle operator to take and successfully complete a bicycling skills course approved by the court in addition to or in lieu of any penalty otherwise prescribed by the Traffic Code for that violation.

(d) Subsections (b) and (c) of this section do not apply to violations of Section 333.01 of this Traffic Code. (ORC 4511.52)

(e) 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 shall not ride other than upon or astride the permanent and regular seat attached thereto, and a person operating a 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 years, or who holds a motorcycle operator's endorsement or license bearing "novice" designation that is currently in effect as provided in Ohio R.C. 4507.13, shall operate a motorcycle on a highway, or be a passenger on a motorcycle, unless wearing a protective helmet on the person's 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 Director of Public Safety. The provisions of this subsection or a violation thereof shall not be used in the trial of any civil action.

(g) Nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting the carrying of a child in a seat or trailer that is designed for carrying children and is firmly attached to the bicycle.

(h) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.53)

373.03 ATTACHING BICYCLE OR SLED TO VEHICLE.

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

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.54; Ord. 6-2005. Passed 1-19-05.)

373.04 RIDING BICYCLES AND MOTORCYCLES ABREAST.

(a) 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.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.55(B); Ord. 6-2005. Passed 1-19-05.)

373.05 LIGHTS AND REFLECTOR ON BICYCLE; BRAKES.

(a) A bicycle may be equipped with a device capable of giving an audible signal, except that a bicycle shall not be equipped with nor shall any person use upon a bicycle any siren or whistle.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.56)

373.06 LIGHTS AND REFLECTOR ON BICYCLE; BRAKES.

(a) Every bicycle when in use at the times specified in Section 337.02, shall be equipped with the following:

- (1) A lamp mounted on the front of either the bicycle or the operator that shall emit a white light visible from a distance of at least five hundred feet to the front; and three hundred feet to the sides. A generator-powered lamp that emits light only when the bicycle is moving may be used to meet this requirement.
- (2) A red reflector on the rear that shall be visible from all distances from one hundred feet to six hundred feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful lower beams of head lamps on a motor vehicle.
- (3) A lamp emitting either flashing or steady red light visible from a distance of five hundred feet to the rear shall be used in addition to the red reflector;

If the red lamp performs as a reflector in that it is visible as specified in subsection (a)(2) of this section, the red lamp may serve as the reflector and a separate reflector is not required.

(b) Additional lamps and reflectors may be used in addition to those required under subsection (a) of this section, except that red lamps and red reflectors shall not be used on the front of the bicycle and white lamps and white reflectors shall not be used on the rear of the bicycle.

(c) Every bicycle shall be equipped with an adequate brake when used on a street or highway.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.56)

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

(a) 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.

(b) This section does not require a person operating a bicycle to ride at the edge of the roadway when it is unreasonable or unsafe to do so. Conditions that may require riding away from the edge of the roadway include when necessary to avoid fixed or moving objects, parked or moving vehicles, surface hazards, or if it otherwise is unsafe or impracticable to do so, including if the lane is too narrow for the bicycle and an overtaking vehicle to travel safely side by side within the lane.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.55(A))

373.08 PARKING OF BICYCLE.

(a) No person shall park a bicycle upon a sidewalk in such a manner so as to unduly interfere with pedestrian traffic or upon a roadway so as to unduly interfere with vehicular traffic.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.
(Ord. 6-2005. Passed 1-19-05.)

373.09 MOTORIZED BICYCLE OPERATION, EQUIPMENT AND LICENSE.

(a) No person shall operate a motorized bicycle upon any street or highway or any public or private property used by the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking, unless all of the following conditions are met:

- (1) The person is fourteen or fifteen years of age and holds a valid probationary motorized bicycle license issued after the person has passed the test provided for in Ohio R.C. 4511.521, or the person is sixteen years of age or older and holds either a valid commercial driver's license issued under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4506, or a driver's license issued under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4507, or a valid motorized bicycle license issued after the person has passed the test provided for in Ohio R.C. 4511.521, except that if a person is sixteen years of age, has a valid probationary motorized bicycle license and desires a motorized bicycle license, the person is not required to comply with the testing requirements provided for in Ohio R.C. 4511.521;
- (2) The motorized bicycle is equipped in accordance with rules adopted by the Ohio Director of Public Safety and is in proper working order;
- (3) The person, if under eighteen years of age, is wearing a protective helmet on the person's head with the chin strap properly fastened, and the motorized bicycle is equipped with a rear-view mirror;
- (4) The person operates the motorized bicycle when practicable within three feet of the right edge of the roadway obeying all traffic rules applicable to vehicles; and
- (5) The motorized bicycle displays on the rear of such bicycle the current license plate or validation sticker furnished by the Ohio Director of Public Safety under Ohio R.C. 4503.191.

(b) No person operating a motorized bicycle shall carry another person upon the motorized bicycle.

(c) Each probationary motorized bicycle license or motorized bicycle license shall be laminated with a transparent plastic material.

(d) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.
(ORC 4511.521; Ord. 6-2005. Passed 1-19-05.)

373.10 BICYCLE RIDING UPON SIDEWALKS.

(a) No person shall ride a bicycle upon a sidewalk within a business district unless such sidewalk has been designated pursuant to Section 373.11 hereof as a usable path for bicycles.

(b) No person twelve or more years of age shall ride a bicycle upon any sidewalk in any district unless such sidewalk has been designated pursuant to Section 373.11 hereof as a usable path for bicycles.

(c) Whenever any person is riding a bicycle upon a sidewalk, including a sidewalk which has been designated as a usable path for bicycles, such person shall yield the right of way to any pedestrian and shall give audible signal before overtaking and passing such pedestrian.

(d) Whoever violates any provision of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.
(Ord. 6-2005. Passed 1-19-05.)

373.11 DESIGNATION OF USABLE PATHS FOR BICYCLES.

(a) The sidewalk areas along Monroe Street and Alexis Road between Erie Street and the points where Monroe Street and Alexis Road intersect the east Municipal boundary are hereby designated as usable paths for bicycles within the meaning of Section 373.10(a) and (b).

(b) The Chief of Police may, by and with the consent of Council, designate other usable paths for bicycles and all or any portions of such paths so designated under this section may have such designation removed by action of the Chief of Police, by and with the consent of Council.

(c) The Chief of Police shall place and maintain signs giving notice of those usable paths designated for bicycles under subsections (a) or (b) hereof and no such regulations shall be effective unless such signs are in place.
(Ord. 6-2005. Passed 1-19-05.)

373.12 PATHS EXCLUSIVELY FOR BICYCLES.

(a) No person shall operate a motor vehicle, snowmobile, or all-purpose vehicle upon any path set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles, when an appropriate sign giving notice of such use is posted on the path.

(b) Whoever violates this section shall be fined one hundred dollars (\$100.00).
(Ord. 6-2005. Passed 1-19-05.)

373.13 IMPOUNDING.

Police officers are hereby authorized to impound any bicycle which is operated in violation of this Traffic Code. Whenever any bicycle is so impounded, it shall be surrendered at the expiration of the impounded period to the owner or to the parents or the guardian of an offender if a minor on the payment of charge for storage, at the discretion of the Chief of Police, but if a charge is made it shall not exceed one dollar (\$1.00). In the case of the seizure of a bicycle because it has been found in the possession of a person, firm, partnership or corporation not the legal owner thereof, and the bicycle is not reclaimed by the legal owner thereof, it shall be sold at public auction after the expiration of ninety days from the date of seizure. Notice containing a description of the bicycle shall be published in a newspaper circulating in the City at least one week prior to the date of the sale. The proceeds of the sale shall be remitted to the City Treasurer. (Ord. 6-2005. Passed 1-19-05.)

373.99 PENALTY.

Whoever violates any provision of this chapter other than Section 373.12 shall, in addition to any other penalty provided, be required to attend a bicycle safety seminar.
(Ord. 6-2005. Passed 1-19-05.)

(NOTE: The next printed page is 167.)

CHAPTER 375
Snowmobiles, Off-Highway Motorcycles and All Purpose Vehicles

375.01	Definitions.	375.05	Licensing requirements of operator.
375.02	Equipment.	375.06	Registration of vehicles.
375.03	Code application; prohibited operation.	375.07	Accident reports.
375.04	Permitted operation.	375.08	Certificate of title.

CROSS REFERENCES

See sectional histories for similar State law
 Lights, brakes and muffler - see OAC Ch. 4501.29
 Power of trial court of record to impound registration certificate for certain violations - see Ohio R.C 4519.47
 Power to regulate; municipal licensing prohibited - see Ohio R.C. 4519.48
 Street or highway defined - see TRAF. 301.42
 Required usage of helmets and safety glasses - see TRAF. 373.02(f)

375.01 DEFINITIONS.

As used in this chapter:

- (a) "Snowmobile" means any self-propelled vehicle designed primarily for use on snow or ice, and steered by skis, runners or caterpillar treads. (ORC 4519.01(A))
- (b) "All purpose vehicle" means any self-propelled vehicle designed primarily for cross-country travel on land and water, or on more than one type of terrain, and steered by wheels or caterpillar treads, or any combination thereof, including vehicles that operate on a cushion of air, vehicles commonly known as all-terrain vehicles, all season vehicles, mini-bikes and trail bikes. "All-purpose vehicle" does not include a utility vehicle as defined in Ohio R.C. 4501.01 or any vehicle principally used in playing golf, any motor vehicle or aircraft required to be registered under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4503 or Chapter 4561, and any vehicle excepted from definition as a motor vehicle by Section 301.20 of this Traffic Code. (ORC 4519.01(B))
- (c) "Owner" means any person, firm or corporation, other than a lienholder or dealer, having title to a snowmobile, off-highway motorcycle, or all purpose vehicle, or other right to the possession thereof. (ORC 4519.01(C))