

Bicyclists' Bill of Rights and Responsibilities

The Bike Bill of Rights and Responsibilities improves safety on our roadways through the following changes:

- Clarifies existing law by stating that bicyclists have the same legal rights and duties as motorists – language which is found in the law of *every state except Massachusetts*.
- Requires the addition of material on bicycle enforcement to basic and in-service training requirements for all police officers. The language in this section is taken from existing statutes on domestic violence and computer technology training for police.
- Makes rear lights, not just reflectors, required and eliminate the requirement for wheel reflectors.
- Tightens up the braking standard, reflecting CPSC guidelines.
- Removes the current prohibition of a fine for the children under age 16 riding without helmets. Currently, there is no fine for not wearing a helmet.
- Makes the ticketing procedure the same as that for motorists, and increases the *maximum* fine from \$20 to \$100.
- Places all bicycle laws in one clean, re-coded section, and removes extraneous material such as mandatory municipal bicycle regulation.
- Clarifies motorists' duties when passing bicyclists (see SECTION 2).
- Adds safety rules on opening car doors (see SECTION 2).
- Allows two bicyclists to ride side by side, when appropriate.
- Prevents the posting of 'Bicycles Prohibited' signs, except on Interstate highways.
- Requires postings of 'Share the Road' signs, particularly in places where it is too narrow for a car and motor vehicle to ride side-by-side.