

# Town of Bridgton

## BICYCLE ORDINANCE



ENACTED: JUNE 11, 1997  
AMENDED: JUNE 11, 2019

**TOWN OF BRIDGTON  
BICYCLE ORDINANCE**

**Section 1. AUTHORITY**

This Ordinance is enacted pursuant to the Home Rule powers as provided in Article VIII, Part Second, Section 1 of the Maine Constitution, 30-A M.R.S. § 3001, 29-A M.R.S. §§ 2052 and 2063-A, and all other applicable authority.

This Ordinance shall be known as the "Bicycle Ordinance" of the Town of Bridgton, adopted and effective by vote of the Town Meeting.

**Section 2. ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT**

This Ordinance shall be administered by the Municipal Officers and enforced by the Police Department of the Town of Bridgton.

**Section 3. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Ordinance is to regulate the safe operation and maintenance of bicycles in the Town of Bridgton in order to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

**Section 4. DEFINITIONS**

The following terms and phrases and words when used in this Ordinance shall have the meaning ascribed to them in this section, except where the content clearly indicates a different meaning.

**Bicycle** - shall mean and include a vehicle having a minimum of two (2) wheels with solid or pneumatic tires, having a steering bar, handle or wheel, and propelled by human power or electric assist.

**Chief** - shall mean the Chief of the Bridgton Police Department or his/her designee, unless specified otherwise.

**Operate** - shall include any form or tense thereof, and shall mean and refer to the use, getting into action or motion, or causing to function of a bicycle by any person mounted thereon.

**Section 5. RULES FOR RIDING AND OPERATION**

A. When two (2) or more persons are operating bicycles in a group on a roadway, they shall ride single file and as far to the right as practicable, except as provided in 29-A M.R.S. § 2063(2).

B. No person shall while operating a bicycle, cling or attach him/herself or the bicycle to any other moving vehicle, including another bicycle.

C. No person operating any bicycle shall ride other than astride a regular and permanent seat attached thereto. No person shall ride or carry another person on the handlebars of a bicycle or in such a manner as to affect the safe and proper operation of the bicycle. This section shall

not be construed as prohibiting the use of an infant seat or child carrier, so-called, as long as the same is securely attached to the bicycle, its use does not affect the safe operation of the bicycle, and there is an adequate restraint system for the child in use.

D. No person shall operate a bicycle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or other intoxicating substances.

E. No bicycle shall be operated within the period from sunset to sunrise unless the bicycle has (1) a lighted headlight attached to the front of the bicycle that is visible under normal atmospheric conditions for a distance of not less than two hundred (200) feet; and (2) a red reflector or taillight attached to the rear of the bicycle that is visible from the rear of the bicycle for a distance of two hundred (200) feet. In addition, any bicycle manufactured and originally equipped with pedal reflectors or wheel reflectors shall be required to maintain such reflectors.

F. No person shall operate any bicycle that is not in such mechanical condition so as to be operated safely.

G. No person shall operate a bicycle on a sidewalk or pedestrian walkway.

H. No person shall operate any bicycle in other than a reasonable and prudent manner. The operator shall be required to have his/her hands on the handlebars when the bicycle is operated. No bicycle shall be operated at an unsafe speed. When operated on a public way, no person shall permit the bicycle to weave in and out of traffic lanes, except the operator may move across lanes to engage in allowed turning movements when such movements can be accomplished with a reasonable degree of safety.

I. When on a roadway, the operator of any bicycle shall conform to all applicable traffic laws, ordinances, and regulations, including those contained in Title 29-A, Chapter 20, of the Maine Revised Statutes, as amended.

J. All bicycles shall be equipped with brakes capable of stopping the bicycle within a reasonable distance.

K. Bicycle operators or passengers under the age of sixteen (16) must wear a helmet while operating or riding a bicycle, pursuant to 29-A M.R.S. § 2323.

L. The operator of a bicycle shall ride with the flow and direction of other vehicle traffic when operating the bicycle on a roadway, except as provided in 29-A M.R.S. § 2063(2).

## **Section 6. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS; PENALTY**

### **A. Inspections**

Any officer of the Bridgton Police Department is hereby authorized to inspect any bicycle, at any time, for the purpose of determining the mechanical condition of the bicycle.

### **B. Penalties; Impoundment**

1. Any person age seventeen (17) or over who violates any provisions of this Ordinance shall by waiver, or adjudication, be punished by a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) and not more than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00). A person under 17 years of age is not subject to a fine under this Ordinance, except that a person violating Section 5.K of this Ordinance may be punished in accordance with 29-A M.R.S. § 2326, as amended, or its successor provision.

2. The Chief of the Bridgton Police, or his/her designee, when satisfied that a juvenile under the age of seventeen (17) years has violated any of the provisions of this Ordinance, may impound the bicycle for a period not to exceed five (5) days for a first offense, for a period not to exceed ten (10) days for a second offense, and for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days for any subsequent offense, in accordance with 29-A M.R.S. § 2063(8).

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