

Chapter 47

BICYCLES

[HISTORY: Adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Thurmont 5-10-1969. Readopted as revised 1-8-1986 by Res. No. 85-6. Subsequent amendments noted where applicable.]

§ 47-1. Manner of operations.

It shall be unlawful for any person riding on any bicycle on any of the streets of the Town of Thurmont to coast upon such bicycle, and the rider is hereby required to keep his feet on the pedals and hands on the handles so as to have the bicycle under proper control to avoid accidents. No passengers will be permitted on bicycles at any time.

§ 47-2. Use of sidewalks restricted.

It shall be unlawful for any person to ride any two-wheel bicycle on or over the sidewalks within a two-block radius of the Town Square in all four directions.

§ 47-3. Lamps and other equipment on bicycles.

A. Lamp and reflector.

(1) If a bicycle is used on a highway at any time when, due to insufficient light or unfavorable atmospheric conditions, persons and vehicles are not clearly discernible at a distance of 1,000 feet, the bicycle shall be equipped:

(a) On the front, with a lamp that emits a white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front; and

(b) On the rear, with a red reflector of a type approved by the Administration and visible from all distances from 600 feet to 100 feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful upper beams of head lamps on a motor vehicle.

(2) A bicycle or bicyclist may be equipped with a lamp that emits a red light or a flashing amber light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear in addition to the red reflector required by Subsection A(1).

B. Bell. A person may not operate a bicycle unless it is equipped with a bell or other device capable of giving a signal audible for a distance of at least 100 feet. However, a bicycle may not be equipped with nor may any person use on a bicycle any siren or whistle.

C. Brake. Every bicycle shall be equipped with a brake that enables its operator to make the braked wheels skid on dry, level, clean pavement.

§ 47-4. Wearing earplugs, headsets and such other equipment.

A. General provisions. A person may not operate a bicycle on any highway, or in any roadway while the person is wearing any headset covering, or any earplugs in, both ears.

B. Exceptions. The provisions of this section do not apply to:

(1) Any person wearing personal hearing protectors in the form of custom earplugs or molds that are designed to attenuate injurious noise levels. The custom plugs or molds shall be designed in such a manner as to not inhibit the wearer's ability to hear a siren or horn from an emergency vehicle;

(2) Any person wearing a prosthetic device used to aid the hard of hearing; or

(3) Any person operating a bicycle on a public bicycle pathway expressly authorized for the use of persons operating bicycles.

§ 47-5. Riding recklessly and speeding.

No person shall operate or propel any bicycle on any of the streets of the town recklessly or at a rate of speed greater than is reasonable and proper, having regard to the width, traffic and use of the street, so as to endanger the property or life or limb of any person.

§ 47-6. Traffic laws to apply.

Every person riding a bicycle upon any of the streets of the town shall be subject to the provisions of the Motor Vehicle Ordinances pertaining to rules of the road and obedience to all traffic-control devices and signals.¹

§ 47-7. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

BICYCLE -- Every device propelled by human power upon which any person may ride, having two tandem wheels, regardless of the diameter of the tires.

§ 47-8. Violations and penalties.

The violation of this chapter is declared to be a municipal infraction. A warning citation will be issued before any penalty is imposed. The penalty for violation after a warning citation is issued shall be the sum of \$25.

¹Editor's Note: See Ch. 125, Vehicles and Traffic.