

BICYCLES

LEGISLATOR NOTICE

The Legislative Services Division is required to offer a brief history on the subject matter of a bill draft request prior to drafting (5-4-105, MCA; [Chapter 309, Laws of 2017](#)). The history must include related legislation introduced over the last five sessions and hyperlinks to the bill, hearing information, and fiscal notes. The legislation links below open to the page showing the status and history of bills introduced on this topic in the past. The bill text and any related fiscal notes can be accessed through the link at the top of that page.

Legislation can be complex and this history is not intended to be exhaustive. Please contact the drafter of the requested bill for more information.

Background Materials and Research

Topic Summary: MCA 61-8-102 defines a bicycle as "a vehicle propelled solely by human power on which any person may ride, irrespective of the number of wheels, except scooters, wheelchairs, and similar devices. The term includes an electrically assisted bicycle." MCA 61-8-320 governs the right-of-way for bicycles. MCA 61-8-601 et seq. governs bicycle use in general, including provisions regarding permissible and impermissible use of bicycles, use on roadways, use on sidewalks, use in bike lanes, and illumination and reflection equipment necessary for use during twilight and nighttime.

Legislators have introduced bills in past sessions seeking to specify distances that passing motor vehicles must maintain from bicycles. Legislators have also introduced bills seeking to modify the definition, use, and equipment of bicycles.

Introduced Legislation

2017

[House Bill 267](#) – (S) Died in Process -- AN ACT REVISING LAWS RELATED TO BICYCLE SAFETY AND PASSING VEHICLES; REQUIRING A MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATOR OVERTAKING AND PASSING A PERSON RIDING A BICYCLE TO LEAVE A REASONABLE AND PRUDENT DISTANCE BETWEEN THE VEHICLE AND THE BICYCLE; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 61-8-320 AND 61-8-321, MCA.

[House Bill 512](#) -- (H) Died in Standing Committee -- AN ACT REQUIRING AN ORANGE FLAG FOR A BICYCLE.

2015

[House Bill 394](#) – (S) Died in Standing Committee -- AN ACT REVISING LAWS RELATED TO BICYCLE SAFETY AND PASSING VEHICLES; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 61-8-320 AND 61-8-321, MCA.

2013

[House Bill 257](#) -- (H) Died in Process -- AN ACT REVISING LAWS RELATED TO BICYCLES; REDEFINING "BICYCLE"; CLARIFYING THE RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR A BICYCLE; UPDATING BICYCLE EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 61-8-102, 61-8-320, 61-8-604, 61-8-605, 61-8-606, AND 61-8-607, MCA