

## NH Statues Regarding Bicycles

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Bicycle riding can be a very enjoyable experience for everyone. Many people like riding with their friends, family, or on their own. Besides being fun, riding is also a good form of exercise that puts less stress on knees, ankles, and feet.

Several things need to be remembered, however, before we take to the streets. The State of New Hampshire has several statutes, or laws, regarding the use of bicycles. Here is a list of important ones to know:

**RSA 265:143** *Every person riding a bicycle has the same rights and responsibilities as persons driving cars. Every person riding a bicycle shall have all of the rights and be subject to the duties applicable to the driver of any other vehicle under the rules of the road.*

**RSA 265:144 VIII** *Any bicyclist shall stop upon demand of a peace officer and permit his bicycle to be inspected.*

**RSA 265:144 V** *Two riders are safest when riding single file on the right side of the road. Never block traffic by riding two abreast. Persons riding bicycles two or more abreast shall not impede the normal and reasonable flow of traffic, and on a lane road shall ride within a single lane.*

**RSA 265:144 IX** *No bicycle shall be operated unless the steering, brakes, tires, and other required equipment are in safe condition.*

**RSA 266:88** *Every bicycle shall be equipped with a brake or brakes which will enable its driver to stop the bicycle*

*within 25 feet from a speed of 10 miles per hour on dry, level, clean pavement.*

**RSA 265:144I** *Handlebars should be the same height as the seat and tightened. Always ride upon or astride a permanent and regular seat attached to the bicycle.*

**RSA 266:88** *Every bicycle operated during darkness shall be equipped with a lamp emitting a white light visible from a distance of 300 feet in front of the bicycle and with a red reflector on the rear visible to a distance of 300 feet.*

**RSA 266:87** *All bicycles shall be equipped with a reflector on each pedal visible from a distance of 200 feet from the front or rear of the bicycle.*

**RSA 265:144II** *No bicycle shall be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped.*

**RSA 265:144IV** *No person shall carry a package, bundle, or article which prevents the driver from keeping at least one hand upon the handlebars.*

**RSA 265:145** *No person riding a bicycle shall hold fast to or hitch onto any other vehicle moving upon a way.*

Last but not least:

**RSA 265:144X** *Bike helmets are required for bicycle riders under 16 years of age and recommended for all.*

Following these few rules can protect you all well as the motoring public. Remember, be safe and have fun! I'll see you out there!