

169.223 MOTORIZED BICYCLE.

Subdivision 1. **Safety equipment; parking.** Section 169.974 relating to motorcycles is applicable to motorized bicycles, except as otherwise provided in this section and except that:

(1) protective headgear includes headgear that meets the standards under Code of Federal Regulations, title 16, part 1203, or successor requirements;

(2) a motorized bicycle equipped with a headlight and taillight meeting the requirements of lighting for motorcycles may be operated during nighttime hours;

(3) protective headgear is not required for operators 18 years of age or older; and

(4) the provisions of section 169.222, subdivision 9, governing the parking of bicycles apply to motorized bicycles.

Subd. 2. **License or permit.** (a) A motorized bicycle may be operated under either a driver's license or a motorized bicycle permit issued under section 171.02, subdivision 3.

(b) A person under the age of 16 operating a motorized bicycle under a motorized bicycle permit is subject to the restrictions imposed by section 169.974, subdivision 2, on operation of a motorcycle under a two-wheel instruction permit, except that:

(1) a parent or guardian of an operator under the age of 16 may also ride on the motorized bicycle as a passenger or operator if the motorized bicycle is equipped with a seat and footrests for a second passenger;

(2) a motorized bicycle equipped with a headlight and taillight meeting the requirements of lighting for motorcycles may be operated during nighttime hours;

(3) protective headgear includes headgear described in subdivision 1; and

(4) protective headgear is required only until the operator reaches the age of 18 years.

Subd. 3. **Sidewalk and passenger prohibitions.** No person shall operate a motorized bicycle upon a sidewalk at any time, except when such operation is necessary for the most direct access to a roadway from a driveway, alley or building. No person shall operate a motorized bicycle that is carrying any person other than the operator, except as allowed under subdivision 2.

Subd. 4. **Headlight requirement.** The provisions of section 169.974, subdivision 5, paragraph (k), apply to motorized bicycles that are equipped with headlights. A new motorized bicycle sold or offered for sale in Minnesota must be equipped with a headlight.

[See Note.]

Subd. 5. **Other operation requirements and prohibitions.** (a) A person operating a motorized bicycle on a roadway shall ride as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway except in one of the following situations:

(1) when overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction;

(2) when preparing for a left turn at an intersection or into a private road or driveway; or

(3) when reasonably necessary to avoid conditions, including fixed or moving objects, vehicles, pedestrians, animals, surface hazards, or narrow width lanes, that make it unsafe to continue along the right-hand curb or edge.

(b) Persons operating motorized bicycles on a roadway may not ride more than two abreast and may not impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic. On a laned roadway, a person operating a motorized bicycle shall ride within a single lane.

(c) This section does not permit the operation of a motorized bicycle on a bicycle path or bicycle lane that is reserved for the exclusive use of nonmotorized traffic.

History: 1977 c 214 s 8; 1979 c 227 s 1; 1987 c 269 s 5; 1989 c 331 s 22; 1996 c 435 s 15,16; 2012 c 287 art 3 s 32,33; 2023 c 25 s 80; 2024 c 127 art 3 s 58

NOTE: The amendment to subdivision 4 by Laws 2024, chapter 127, article 3, section 58, is effective July 1, 2025. Laws 2024, chapter 127, article 3, section 58, the effective date.