

**MICHIGAN VEHICLE CODE (EXCERPT)**  
**Act 300 of 1949**

OPERATION OF BICYCLES, MOTORCYCLES AND TOY VEHICLES

**257.656 Violations of MCL 257.656 to 257.661a as civil infractions; duty of parent or guardian; regulations applicable to bicycles and motorcycles.**

Sec. 656. (1) A person who violates any of sections 656 to 661a is responsible for a civil infraction.

(2) The parent of a child or the guardian of a ward shall not authorize or knowingly permit the child or ward to violate this chapter.

(3) The regulations applicable to bicycles under sections 656 to 662 shall apply when a bicycle is operated upon a highway or upon a path set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles, subject to those exceptions stated in sections 656 to 662.

(4) The regulations applicable to motorcycles in sections 656 to 662 shall be considered supplementary to other provisions of this chapter governing the operation of motorcycles.

**History:** 1949, Act 300, Eff. Sept. 23, 1949;—Am. 1978, Act 510, Eff. Aug. 1, 1979.

**257.657 Rights and duties of persons riding bicycle, electric personal assistive mobility device, or moped or operating low-speed vehicle.**

Sec. 657. Each person riding a bicycle, electric personal assistive mobility device, or moped or operating a low-speed vehicle upon a roadway has all of the rights and is subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle by this chapter, except as to special regulations in this article and except as to the provisions of this chapter which by their nature do not have application.

**History:** 1949, Act 300, Eff. Sept. 23, 1949;—Am. 1976, Act 439, Imd. Eff. Jan. 13, 1977;—Am. 2000, Act 82, Eff. July 1, 2000;—Am. 2002, Act 494, Imd. Eff. July 3, 2002.

**257.658 Riding on seat of bicycle, motorcycle, or moped; number of persons; wearing of crash helmets; conditions; rules; requirements for autocycle.**

Sec. 658. (1) A person propelling a bicycle or operating a motorcycle or moped shall not ride other than upon and astride a permanent and regular seat attached to that vehicle.

(2) A bicycle or motorcycle shall not be used to carry more persons at 1 time than the number for which it is designed and equipped.

(3) A moped or an electric personal assistive mobility device shall not be used to carry more than 1 person at a time.

(4) A person less than 19 years of age operating a moped on a public thoroughfare shall wear a crash helmet on his or her head. Except as provided in subsection (5), a person operating or riding on a motorcycle shall wear a crash helmet on his or her head.

(5) The following conditions apply to a person 21 years of age or older operating or riding on a motorcycle, as applicable:

(a) A person who is operating a motorcycle is not required to wear a crash helmet on his or her head if he or she has had a motorcycle endorsement on his or her operator's or chauffeur's license for not less than 2 years or the person passes a motorcycle safety course conducted under section 811a or 811b and satisfies the requirements of subdivision (c).

(b) A person who is riding on a motorcycle is not required to wear a crash helmet on his or her head if the person or the operator of the motorcycle satisfies the requirements of subdivision (c).

(c) A person who is operating a motorcycle and a person who is riding on a motorcycle are not required to wear crash helmets on their heads if the operator of the motorcycle or the rider has in effect security for the first-party medical benefits payable in the event that he or she is involved in a motorcycle accident, as provided in section 3103 of the insurance code of 1956, 1956 PA 218, MCL 500.3103, in 1 of the following amounts, as applicable:

(i) A motorcycle operator without a rider, not less than \$20,000.00.

(ii) A motorcycle operator with a rider, not less than \$20,000.00 per person per occurrence. However, if the rider has security in an amount not less than \$20,000.00, then the operator is only required to have security in the amount of not less than \$20,000.00.

(6) Crash helmets shall be approved by the department of state police. The department of state police shall promulgate rules for the implementation of this section under the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328. Rules in effect on June 1, 1970, apply to helmets required by this act.

(7) The crash helmet requirements under this section do not apply to a person operating or riding in an

autocycle if the vehicle is equipped with a roof that meets or exceeds standards for a crash helmet.

(8) A person operating or riding in an autocycle shall wear seat belts when on a public highway in this state.

**History:** 1949, Act 300, Eff. Sept. 23, 1949;—Am. 1959, Act 260, Eff. Mar. 19, 1960;—Am. 1966, Act 207, Eff. Mar. 10, 1967;—Am. 1968, Act 141, Imd. Eff. June 12, 1968;—Am. 1969, Act 118, Eff. Sept. 1, 1969;—Am. 1969, Act 134, Eff. June 1, 1970;—Am. 1970, Act 24, Imd. Eff. June 1, 1970;—Am. 1976, Act 439, Imd. Eff. Jan. 13, 1977;—Am. 1983, Act 91, Imd. Eff. June 16, 1983;—Am. 1984, Act 328, Imd. Eff. Dec. 26, 1984;—Am. 2002, Act 494, Imd. Eff. July 3, 2002;—Am. 2012, Act 98, Imd. Eff. Apr. 13, 2012.

**Constitutionality:** The legislature may reasonably require that helmets be worn with a view to mitigating potential civil and criminal liability of drivers who collide with motorcycles. *People v Poucher*, 398 Mich 316; 247 NW2d 798 (1976).

**Popular name:** Helmet Law

**Administrative rules:** R 28.901 et seq. and R 28.951 et seq. of the Michigan Administrative Code.

### **257.658a Seats and foot rests; requirements; exception; violation as civil infraction.**

Sec. 658a. (1) In addition to the requirements of section 658, a motorcycle shall be equipped with adequate seats and foot rests or pegs for each designated seating position. Foot rests or pegs must be securely attached. A passenger shall not ride on a motorcycle unless his or her feet can rest on the assigned foot rests or pegs except that this requirement does not apply to a person who is unable to reach the foot rests or pegs due to a permanent physical disability.

(2) A person who violates this section is responsible for a civil infraction.

**History:** Add. 1995, Act 68, Eff. Jan. 1, 1996.

### **257.658b Crash helmet required; exception.**

Sec. 658b. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a person operating or riding in a low-speed vehicle shall wear a crash helmet on his or her head. The crash helmet shall meet the requirements of the rules promulgated by the department of state police under section 658.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to a person operating or riding in a low-speed vehicle equipped with a roof that meets or exceeds the standards for roof-crush resistance, provided under 49 C.F.R. 571.500.

**History:** Add. 2000, Act 82, Eff. July 1, 2000.

### **257.659 Riding while attached to streetcar or vehicle.**

Sec. 659. A person riding upon a bicycle, moped or motorcycle, coaster, roller skates, sled, or toy vehicle shall not attach the same or himself to a streetcar or vehicle upon a roadway.

**History:** 1949, Act 300, Eff. Sept. 23, 1949;—Am. 1976, Act 439, Imd. Eff. Jan. 13, 1977.

### **257.660 Electric personal assistive mobility device, low-speed vehicle, or moped; operation; limitations; applicability to police officer; regulation by local government; prohibitions; regulation by department of natural resources.**

Sec. 660. (1) A person operating an electric personal assistive mobility device, low-speed vehicle, or moped upon a roadway shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable, exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction. A motorcycle is entitled to full use of a lane, and a motor vehicle shall not be driven in such a manner as to deprive a motorcycle of the full use of a lane. This subsection does not apply to motorcycles operated 2 abreast in a single lane.

(2) A person riding an electric personal assistive mobility device, motorcycle, or moped upon a roadway shall not ride more than 2 abreast except on a path or part of a roadway set aside for the exclusive use of those vehicles.

(3) Where a usable and designated path for bicycles is provided adjacent to a highway or street, a person operating an electric personal assistive mobility device may, by local ordinance, be required to use that path.

(4) A person operating a motorcycle, moped, low-speed vehicle, or electric personal assistive mobility device shall not pass between lines of traffic, but may pass on the left of traffic moving in his or her direction in the case of a 2-way street or on the left or right of traffic in the case of a 1-way street, in an unoccupied lane.

(5) A person operating an electric personal assistive mobility device on a sidewalk constructed for the use of pedestrians shall yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian and shall give an audible signal before overtaking and passing the pedestrian.

(6) A moped or low-speed vehicle shall not be operated on a sidewalk constructed for the use of pedestrians.

(7) A low-speed vehicle shall be operated at a speed of not to exceed 25 miles per hour and shall not be operated on a highway or street with a speed limit of more than 35 miles per hour except for the purpose of

crossing that highway or street. The state transportation department may prohibit the operation of a low-speed vehicle on any highway or street under its jurisdiction if it determines that the prohibition is necessary in the interest of public safety.

(8) This section does not apply to a police officer in the performance of his or her official duties.

(9) An electric personal assistive mobility device shall be operated at a speed not to exceed 15 miles per hour and shall not be operated on a highway or street with a speed limit of more than 25 miles per hour except to cross that highway or street.

(10) The governing body of a county, a city, a village, an entity created under the urban cooperation act of 1967, 1967 (Ex Sess) PA 7, MCL 124.501 to 124.512, or a township may, by ordinance, which is based on the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens, regulate the operation of electric personal assistive mobility devices on sidewalks, highways or streets, or crosswalks. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a governing body of a county, city, village, entity created under the urban cooperation act of 1967, 1967 (Ex Sess) PA 7, MCL 124.501 to 124.512, or township may prohibit the operation of electric personal assistive mobility devices in an area open to pedestrian traffic adjacent to a waterfront or on a trail under their jurisdiction or in a downtown or central business district. Signs indicating the regulation shall be conspicuously posted in the area where the use of an electric personal assistive mobility device is regulated.

(11) Operation of an electric personal assistive mobility device is prohibited in a special charter city and a state park under the jurisdiction of the Mackinac Island state park commission.

(12) Operation of an electric personal assistive mobility device may be prohibited in a historic district.

(13) The department of natural resources may by order regulate the use of electric personal assistive mobility devices on all lands under its control.

**History:** 1949, Act 300, Eff. Sept. 23, 1949;—Am. 1966, Act 207, Eff. Mar. 10, 1967;—Am. 1969, Act 134, Eff. June 1, 1970;—Am. 1975, Act 209, Imd. Eff. Aug. 25, 1975;—Am. 1975, Act 273, Eff. Mar. 31, 1976;—Am. 1976, Act 439, Imd. Eff. Jan. 13, 1977;—Am. 1994, Act 348, Eff. Mar. 30, 1995;—Am. 2000, Act 82, Eff. July 1, 2000;—Am. 2002, Act 494, Imd. Eff. July 3, 2002;—Am. 2006, Act 339, Imd. Eff. Aug. 15, 2006.

**Compiler's note:** For transfer of powers and duties of department of natural resources to department of natural resources and environment, and abolishment of department of natural resources, see E.R.O. No. 2009-31, compiled at MCL 324.99919.

### **257.660a Operation of bicycle upon highway or street; riding close to right-hand curb or edge of roadway; exceptions.**

Sec. 660a. A person operating a bicycle upon a highway or street at less than the existing speed of traffic shall ride as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway except as follows:

(a) When overtaking and passing another bicycle or any other vehicle proceeding in the same direction.

(b) When preparing to turn left.

(c) When conditions make the right-hand edge of the roadway unsafe or reasonably unusable by bicycles, including, but not limited to, surface hazards, an uneven roadway surface, drain openings, debris, parked or moving vehicles or bicycles, pedestrians, animals, or other obstacles, or if the lane is too narrow to permit a vehicle to safely overtake and pass a bicycle.

(d) When operating a bicycle in a lane in which the traffic is turning right but the individual intends to go straight through the intersection.

(e) When operating a bicycle upon a 1-way highway or street that has 2 or more marked traffic lanes, in which case the individual may ride as near the left-hand curb or edge of that roadway as practicable.

**History:** Add. 2006, Act 339, Imd. Eff. Aug. 15, 2006.

**Compiler's note:** Former MCL 257.660a, which pertained to operation of bicycle with motor, was repealed by Act 439 of 1976, Imd. Eff. Jan. 13, 1997.

### **257.660b Operation of bicycle upon highway or street; riding more than 2 abreast.**

Sec. 660b. Two or more individuals operating bicycles upon a highway or street shall not ride more than 2 abreast except upon a path or portion of the highway or street set aside for the use of bicycles.

**History:** Add. 2006, Act 339, Imd. Eff. Aug. 15, 2006.

### **257.660c Operation of bicycle upon sidewalk or pedestrian crosswalk.**

Sec. 660c. (1) An individual operating a bicycle upon a sidewalk or a pedestrian crosswalk shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and shall give an audible signal before overtaking and passing a pedestrian.

(2) An individual shall not operate a bicycle upon a sidewalk or a pedestrian crosswalk if that operation is prohibited by an official traffic control device.

(3) An individual lawfully operating a bicycle upon a sidewalk or a pedestrian crosswalk has all of the rights and responsibilities applicable to a pedestrian using that sidewalk or crosswalk.

**History:** Add. 2006, Act 339, Imd. Eff. Aug. 15, 2006.

#### **257.660d Parking bicycle on sidewalk, highway, or street.**

Sec. 660d. (1) An individual may park a bicycle on a sidewalk except as prohibited by an official traffic control device.

(2) An individual shall not park a bicycle on a sidewalk in such a manner that the bicycle impedes the lawful movement of pedestrians or other traffic.

(3) An individual may park a bicycle on a highway or street at any location where parking is allowed for motor vehicles, may park at any angle to the curb or the edge of the highway, and may park abreast of another bicycle.

(4) An individual shall not park a bicycle on a highway or street in such a manner as to obstruct the movement of a legally parked motor vehicle.

(5) Except as otherwise provided in this section, an individual parking a bicycle on a highway or street shall do so in compliance with this act and any local ordinance.

**History:** Add. 2006, Act 339, Imd. Eff. Aug. 15, 2006.

#### **257.661 Carrying package, bundle, or article on bicycle, electric personal assistive mobility device, moped, or motorcycle.**

Sec. 661. A person operating a bicycle, electric personal assistive mobility device, moped, or motorcycle shall not carry any package, bundle, or article that prevents the driver from keeping both hands upon the handlebars of the vehicle.

**History:** 1949, Act 300, Eff. Sept. 23, 1949;—Am. 1966, Act 207, Eff. Mar. 10, 1967;—Am. 1976, Act 439, Imd. Eff. Jan. 13, 1977;—Am. 2002, Act 494, Imd. Eff. July 3, 2002.

#### **257.661a Handlebars of motorcycle or moped.**

Sec. 661a. A person shall not operate on a public highway of this state a motorcycle or moped equipped with handlebars that are higher than 15 inches from the lowest point of the undepressed saddle to the highest point of the handle grip of the operator.

**History:** Add. 1969, Act 134, Eff. June 1, 1970;—Am. 1976, Act 439, Imd. Eff. Jan. 13, 1977.

#### **257.662 Bicycles or electric personal assistive mobility device; equipment; violation as civil infraction.**

Sec. 662. (1) A bicycle or an electric personal assistive mobility device being operated on a roadway between 1/2 hour after sunset and 1/2 hour before sunrise shall be equipped with a lamp on the front which shall emit a white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front and with a red reflector on the rear which shall be visible from all distances from 100 feet to 600 feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful lower beams of head lamps on a motor vehicle. A lamp emitting a red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear may be used in addition to the red reflector.

(2) A bicycle shall be equipped with a brake which will enable the operator to make the braked wheels skid on dry, level, clean pavement.

(3) An electric personal assistive mobility device shall enable the operator to bring it to a controlled stop.

(4) A person shall not sell, offer for sale, or deliver for sale in this state a bicycle or a pedal for use on a bicycle, either of which was manufactured after January 1, 1976, unless it is equipped with a type of reflex reflector located on the front and rear surfaces of the pedal. The reflector elements may be either integral with the construction of the pedal or mechanically attached, but shall be sufficiently recessed from the edge of the pedal, or of the reflector housing, to prevent contact of the reflector element with a flat surface placed in contact with the edge of the pedal. The pedal reflectors shall be visible from the front and rear of the bicycle during the nighttime from a distance of 200 feet when directly exposed to the lower beam head lamps of a motor vehicle.

(5) A person shall not sell, offer for sale, or deliver for sale in this state a bicycle manufactured after January 1, 1976 or an electric personal assistive mobility device unless it is equipped with either tires which have reflective sidewalls or with wide-angle prismatic spoke reflectors. If the bicycle or the electric personal assistive mobility device is manufactured with reflective sidewalls, the reflective portion of the sidewall shall form a continuous circle on the sidewall, and may not be removed from the tire without removal of tire material. If the bicycle is equipped with wide-angle prismatic spoke reflectors, the reflectors of the front wheel shall be essentially colorless or amber, and the reflectors on the rear wheel shall be essentially colorless or red. Reflective sidewalls or spoke reflectors shall cause the bicycle to be visible from all distances from 100 feet to 600 feet when viewed under lawful low beam motor vehicle head lamps under normal atmospheric

conditions.

(6) A person who violates subsection (1) or (2) is responsible for a civil infraction.

**History:** 1949, Act 300, Eff. Sept. 23, 1949;—Am. 1975, Act 209, Imd. Eff. Aug. 25, 1975;—Am. 1978, Act 510, Eff. Aug. 1, 1979;—Am. 2000, Act 131, Imd. Eff. June 1, 2000;—Am. 2002, Act 494, Imd. Eff. July 3, 2002.