

## CHAPTER 30

### AN ORDINANCE REGULATING BICYCLES, SKATEBOARDS, ROLLER SKATES AND OTHER HUMAN POWERED VEHICLES

#### PURPOSE

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council of the Town of Williamsport, Maryland, deem it in the best interest of the citizenry of said Town to pass an ordinance regulating the operation of bicycles, play vehicles and motor vehicles within the Corporate limits of the Town of Williamsport, Maryland.

#### SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Chapter, the terms used herein are defined as follows:

A. Bicycle – A vehicle that is designed to be operated by human power, has two (2) or three (3) wheels, of which one (1) is more than fourteen (14) inches in diameter, and has a wheel configuration as follows:

If the bicycle has two (2) wheels, with both wheels in tandem; or if the vehicle has three (3) wheels, with one (1) front wheel and with two (2) rear wheels that are spaced equal distance from the center of the bicycle; or a vehicle that is otherwise considered a bicycle under the Transportation Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

B. Roadway – Any part of a highway, street, road, or alley that is improved, designed or ordinarily used for motor vehicle travel other than the shoulder or designated bike path.

C. Bike Lane – Any portion of a roadway or shoulder designed for single directional bicycle flow.

D. Motor Vehicle – Minibikes, motorbikes, motor scooters, go carts and other mechanically propelled vehicles of a similar nature.

E. Play Vehicles – Skateboards, roller skates, soap box vehicles and other similar devices. Play vehicles shall not include tricycles and/or other three (3) or more wheeled toys commonly used by small children under the supervision of an adult, parent or other responsible person unless otherwise specified herein.

F. Police Department – Police department is defined as either the officially designated Police Department for the Town or any other law enforcement agency acting within the corporate limits of the Town of Williamsport. The term law enforcement officer is defined as any member of any law enforcement agency of the State, County or Town.

## **SECTION 2. PROPER RIDING CONTROL; COMPLIANCE WITH TRAFFIC REGULATIONS**

The rider or operator of a bicycle or play vehicle as defined herein on any of the streets of the Town of Williamsport shall have said vehicle under proper control and shall not operate or propel the bicycle on any of the streets of the Town recklessly or at a rate of speed greater than is reasonable and proper and shall not use the street or highways so as to endanger the property of any person. All operators of bicycles shall at all times comply with all other traffic regulations in force in the Town of Williamsport and pursuant to the traffic regulations for the State of Maryland. It shall be unlawful for any person to ride, operate or use any play vehicle as defined in this Chapter on, over or upon the public streets, ways and/or alleys of the Town of Williamsport. (Amended March 28, 1993, recorded at Liber 4, folio 120.)

## **SECTION 3. RIDING ON SIDEWALKS**

It shall unlawful for any person to ride any bicycle, motor vehicle or play vehicle as defined in this Chapter on, over or upon the public sidewalks of the Town of Williamsport.

## **SECTION 4. RIDING IN PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS**

It shall be unlawful for any person, operator or group of persons to ride or operate a bicycle, motor vehicle, or play vehicle, as defined in this Chapter, in any park or playground owned, operated and/or maintained by the Town of Williamsport, except in those areas designed as “riding areas” or except in such areas as are public ways or public highways or roads and commonly use din said park or playground areas.

## **SECTION 5. IMPOUNDING AND DISPOSITION OF BICYCLES, MOTOR VEHICLES, AND PLAY VEHICLES IN VIOLATION**

A. Any bicycle, motor vehicle or play vehicle, as defined herein, found to be in violation of this Chapter shall be impounded by the Police and removed from the public thoroughfares of the Town.

B. In the event that any bicycles, play vehicles or motor vehicles, as defined herein, are located or turned into the Police Department that have been abandoned

within the Town of Williamsport, the Police Department shall impound the same if they are unable to locate the true owners of said bicycle, play vehicle or motor vehicle.

C. If any of the foregoing impounded bicycles, play vehicles and/or motor vehicles are not redeemed within thirty (30) days from the impounding of the same if the owner is not known or within thirty (30) days of the impounding where the owner is known and has been notified in writing of the impoundment of said bicycle, play vehicle and/or motor vehicle then said Police Department shall sell said bicycles, play vehicles, and/or motor vehicles at a public sale to the highest bidder, after having been duly advertised by publishing notice of the time and place of such sale at least once ten (10) days prior to the sale in some newspaper published in the County.

## **SECTION 6. VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES**

A. Any person violating any provision of this Ordinance, on conviction thereof before the Court having jurisdiction, shall pay a fine as follows:

1. If the offense for which the person has been convicted is a violation of the Motor Vehicle Laws as set out in the Transportation Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as it may from time to time be amended, a fine as established by the Transportation Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland as it may be from time to time amended shall be paid.

2. If the person violating this Ordinance is convicted of a violation that is not a violation of the Transportation Article as aforementioned, a fine upon conviction of not less than Twenty-five (\$25.00) Dollars nor more than One Hundred (\$100.00) Dollars shall be paid.

B. In addition to the penalties set forth in paragraph A, in the event that any law enforcement agency acting within the jurisdictional limits of the Town of Williamsport observes any minor child operating a play vehicle, motor vehicle and/or bicycle in violation of the provisions of this Ordinance, the law enforcement officer may confiscate the play vehicle, motor vehicle and/or bicycle operated by said minor child and shall return the said play vehicle, motor vehicle, and/or bicycle to the said minor's parent or guardian. The law enforcement officer shall be authorized to confiscate a bicycle, play vehicle and/or motor vehicle as defined by this Ordinance under the provisions of this Ordinance whether or not he or she issues a citation for a violation of this Section.

C. In addition to the fines and the penalties described, the Mayor and Council of the Town of Williamsport may avail themselves of any and all civil equitable remedies for the purposes of stopping continuing offenses of this Ordinance.

**SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Ordinance is passed as an emergency ordinance and is effective immediately.

ENACTED: February 10, 1992, recorded at Liber 3, folio 927.  
AMENDED: March 28, 1993, recorded at Liber 4, folio 120.