

Information from Doug Huffman. State Vehicle Code: <http://www.scstatehouse.net/code/t56c005.htm>
 For explanation of the law rating system, see <http://www.geocities.com/fredoswald/law-reform.html>

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Rating of South Carolina Bicycle Traffic Laws

S. Carolina Bicycle Traffic Laws earn a **TENTATIVE rating of F- (-3 points)**

Note: A bicycle IS NOT defined as a vehicle in South Carolina.

A: 91 to 98 points	(89-90 is A-, over 99 is A+)
B: 79 to 86 points	(87-88 is B+, 77-78 is B-)
C: 66 to 74 points	(75-76 is C+, 64-65 is C-)
D: 52 to 61 points	(62-63 is D+, 50-51 is D-)
F: 40 to 47 points	(48-49 is F+, below 40 points is F-)

Traffic Law Defects	
	Mandates riding wrong way (automatic failing score) [-100]
	Mandates riding on sidewalk (creates failing score) [-80]
	Prohibits bicycles from all main streets (a "stealth" sidewalk law) [-80]
	Lower deduction if prohibition applies only where speed limit is above 50 mph [-30]
	Lower deduction if engineering study, alternate route & signs reqd. [-30]
	Mandates riding on sidewalk only for under age 16 [-30]
-40	Mandates riding on sidepath, shoulder or bike lane [-40]
	Lower deduction if applies only where sidepath is "usable" and signed [-25]
	Restriction only for under age 16 [-25]
	Lower deduction if includes UVC "far right" type exceptions [-20]
	Lower deduction if also includes CA "right turn authorized" exception [-15]
	[SC ST SEC 56-5-3430] Whenever a usable path for bicycles has been provided adjacent to a roadway, bicycle riders shall use such path and shall not use the roadway.
-30	Unlimited local "regulation of the operation of bicycles" (non-uniform laws) [-30]
	Lower deduction if allows only local sidepath ordinance. [-20]
	Allows local bicycle ban only on major highway [-15]
	Local authorities may mandate registration (rather than voluntary program) [-1]
-20	"Shall ride within 3 feet of right edge of road" (or similar unsafe rule) [-25]
	"Shall ride as close as practicable to the right-hand curb", with no exceptions [-20]
	Lower deduction if includes all UVC exceptions [-10]
	Mandatory helmet law that includes adult cyclists [-20]
	Lower deduction if applies only to children under 12 [-15]
	Lower still if also includes strong "contributory negligence" exclusion [-5]
	Prohibits normal vehicular left turn [-10]
	"Shall ride single file" (no exceptions) [-10]
	Lower deduction depending on exceptions [-5]
	Motor vehicle restrictions that should not apply to bicycles: [up to -5] (following too closely, racing, parking lights, tire tread depth, etc.)
-3	Irresponsible brake requirements (skid braked wheel) [-3]

-2	“Nuisance” safety equipment required (bell, front, wheel & pedal reflectors, etc)	[-2]
-2	Right-arm right turn signal not authorized	[-2]
-2	Unreasonable turn signal requirement (continuous, or even if not safe)	[-2]
	Authorizes bicycle-specific traffic control devices	[-2]
-1	Lacks provision allowing bicycle access to freeway shoulders	[-1]
-1	Slow vehicle “as close as practicable to the right-hand curb”	[-1]
	Missing language “intent is to facilitate overtaking” in slow veh. rule	[-1]
-3	Minor Defects (scored as a group)	
Y	Lacks provision allowing preparing for left turn early	
Y	Lacks exception to no-passing zone rule for passing of slow vehicles	
Y	Lacks language prohibiting “points” for bicycle violations	
Y	“Give way to the right on audible signal”	
Y	Lacks cycling skills course for violators	
	Police authorized to inspect bicycles	
Y	Lacks child seat or trailer language or allow child in backpack	
Y	Lacks language authorizing additional lights or reflectors	
Y	Lacks language saying riding two abreast does not impede traffic if no conflicting traffic	
Y	Poor definition of bicycle (not recognizing recumbents or trikes)	
Positive Factors (points added)		
	Have issued a good state “Bicycle Drivers' Manual” and/or --- Drivers Handbook has vehicular cycling info.	[up to +15]
+1	Cycling education program (possibly financed by Share the Road license plate) <i>Proceeds for Share the road license plate are not being used for education.</i>	[+5]
	Permits <u>and</u> requires motorists to merge into a bike lane before turning.	[+2]
	Expressly permits but does not require cycling on (non-freeway) shoulders.	[+2]
	Local authorities may reduce the fine for bicycling offenses	[+2]
	Language to discourage unsafe sidewalk riding	[+2]