**Key Bicycle Law Changes Under House Bill 959 (Session Law 2016 – 90)**

**Signed into Law on July 11, 2016**

**BICYCLE MUST HAVE RED REAR LIGHT OR OPER ATOR MUST WEAR REFLECTIVE VEST WHEN OPERATED AT NIGHT SECTION**

**5.1.(a) G.S. 20 - 129(e)** reads as rewritten: "(e) Lamps on Bicycles. – Every bicycle shall be equipped with a reflex mirror on the rear and both of the following when operated at night on any public street, public vehicular area, or public greenway: (1) A lighted lamp on the front thereof, visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of at least 300 feet in front of such bicycle. (2) A lamp on the rear, exhibiting a red light visible under like conditions from a distance of at least 300 feet to the rear of such bicycle or the operator must wear clothing or a vest that is bright and visible from a distance of at least 300 feet to the rear of the bicycle."

**This section becomes effective December 1, 2016, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.**

**BICYCLE SAFETY LAW REVISIONS SECTION**

**5.5.(a) G.S. 20 - 150(e)** reads as rewritten: "(e) The driver of a vehicle shall not overtake and pass another on any portion of the highway which is marked by signs, markers or markings placed by the Department of Transportation stating or clearly indicating that passing should not be attempted. The prohibition in this section shall not apply when the overtaking and passing is done in accordance with all of the following:

(1) The slower moving vehicle to be passed is a bicycle or a moped.

(2) The slower moving vehicle is proceeding in the same direction as the faster moving vehicle.

(3) The driver of the faster moving vehicle either ***(i) provides a*** ***minimum of four feet*** between the faster moving vehicle and the slower moving vehicle ***or (ii) completely enters the left lane*** of the highway.

(4) The operator of the slower moving vehicle is not (i) making a left turn or (ii) signaling in accordance with G.S. 20-154 that he or she intends to make a left turn.

(5) The driver of the faster moving vehicle complies with all other applicable requirements set forth in this section.

**5.5.(c) G.S. 20 - 154** reads as rewritten: "§20-154. Signals on starting, stopping or turning. (a1) A person who violates subsection (a) of this section and causes a motorcycle or bicycle operator to change travel lanes or leave that portion of any public street or highway designated as travel lanes shall be responsible for an infraction and shall be assessed a fine of not less than two hundred dollars ($200.00). A person who violates subsection (a) of this section that results in a crash causing property damage or personal injury to a motorcycle or bicycle operator or passenger shall be responsible for an infraction and shall be assessed a fine of not less than five hundred dollars ($500.00 ) unless subsection (a2) of this section applies. (a2) A person who violates subsection (a) of this section and the violation results in a crash causing property damage in excess of five thousand dollars ($5,000) or a serious bodily injury as defined in G. S. 20-160.1(b) to a motorcycle or bicycle operator or passenger shall be responsible for an infraction and shall be assessed a fine of not less than seven hundred fifty dollars ($750.00). A violation of this subsection shall be treated as a failure to yield right-of-way to a motorcycle or bicycle, as applicable, for purposes of assessment of points under G.S. 20-16(c).

(b1) an operator of a bicycle may signal his or her intention to make a right turn by extending his or her hand and arm horizontally, with the forefinger pointing, from beyond the right side of the bicycle.

**This section becomes effective October 1, 2016, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.**

For the complete Law, visit: <http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2015/Bills/House/PDF/H959v6.pdf>.