

Ohio Bicycle Communicator

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Summer and Fall, 2006

OBF Better Ohio Bicycling Bill (HB 389) Is Now Law



Ohio Bicycle Federation Testimony Team before the Ohio Senate Highways and Transportation Committee included (left to right above) , Columbus Outdoor Pursuits Bicycling Activity Leader Jack Hornsby, Westerville Bicycle Club President Bill McMurray, OBF Chair Chuck Smith, Senate Highways and Transportation Committee Chairman Sen. Jeffrey Armbruster, OBF Board Member Cal Kirchick, and OBF Board Member Jim Swaney. Below (left to right) are HB 389 sponsor Representative Arlene Setzer of Vandalia, Smith, McMurray, bicycle commuter Dan Carrigan, and OBF Board Member Steve Magas.





Governor Bob Taft presents pen used to sign OBF's Better Ohio Bicycling Bill into law during GOBA opening ceremonies at the Greene County Fairgrounds in Xenia. Greene County official and HB 389 sponsor Rep. Arlene Setzer look on.

Ride with Governor Taft and OBF to Tall Stacks on October 7

Join us as we ride the Little Miami Scenic Trail from Xenia Station in downtown Xenia to Cincinnati on Saturday, October 7 with Governor Taft and OBF Chair Chuck Smith. We plan to leave Xenia Station at 9 a.m. Saturday morning. When we arrive in Cincinnati, we will view Tall Stacks. For more information, go to www.ohiobike.org.

Interested in Serving on OBF Board?

Are you interested in serving on our OBF Board for 2007-2008? If so, please contact Nominations Chair Bette Roth at BRoth44575@aol.com or (937) 898-7895 by October 6.



www.ohiobike.org

The Ohio Bicycle Federation is an alliance of individuals and organizations interested in promoting the use of bicycles for recreation, transportation and sport. It serves by providing opportunities for the betterment of bicycle education, engineering, legislation, and the encouragement of activities involving the use of bicycles and by serving as a forum for the exchange of information and ideas.

Please Join or Renew!

Complete the form below and send it today!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____

Membership Levels

- 1 Year – Single \$20, Family \$25, Supporting/Organization \$50, Sustaining \$100
- 2 Years – Single \$35, Family \$45, Supporting/Organization \$90, Sustaining \$190
- 3 Years – Single \$50, Family \$65, Supporting/Organization \$130, Sustaining \$280
- Lifetime – \$300

Join at the Supporting level or above and receive an OBF t-shirt so you can proudly show your support!
Adult Extra Large Only

Ohio Bicycle Federation, P.O. Box 253, Xenia, OH 45385-0253

Better Ohio Bicycling Bill Now Law

HB 389, the Better Ohio Bicycling Bill, which was proposed and shepherded through the Ohio House and Senate by the Ohio Bicycle Federation and sponsoring Representative Arlene Setzer of Vandalia, was signed into law by Governor Bob Taft during the GOBA Opening Ceremonies in Xenia on June 16.

The new law, which took effect on Sep. 21, makes Ohio bicycle traffic law conform more closely with the Uniform Vehicle Code and with the best practices of knowledgeable cyclists. You can read the bill as passed by the 126th Ohio General Assembly at www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=126_HB_389

H.B. 389 improves Ohio cycling law in several ways, including:

A. Clarifies and limits power of local authorities to regulate bicycle operation.

1. Such regulation may not be inconsistent with safe practices or with the uniform rules of the road.
2. Local authorities may not require cyclists to ride on sidewalks, nor may they close streets (other than freeways) to bicycle use.
3. Special local rules governing cycling are not effective unless signs are posted - for example requiring the cyclists ride single file or requiring use of helmets.
4. Licensing rules cannot be applied to non-residents.

B. Eliminates misinterpretation of bicycle road position (the "far right rule"). It is now clear that you can ride to the left to:

1. Avoid potholes, puddles, glass and other debris or other road hazards;
2. Avoid parked, stopped or disabled vehicles;
3. Make a left turn or ride to stay out of a right-turn-only lane.

C. Clarifies and rationalizes bicycle safety equipment requirements

1. Either a blinking or steady red light can serve as a rear light.
2. A lamp in the rear that is as visible as a reflector satisfies the requirement for a rear reflector.
3. Wheel reflectors and front reflectors are no longer required.
4. Bells no longer required.
5. Either a helmet-mounted light or a generator light will satisfy the headlight requirement
6. A blinking white light is acceptable..

D. Exempts cyclists from continuous turn signal requirement. Cyclists need not give hand signals when both hands are required to control the bicycle.

E. Give courts sentencing discretion including remedial bicycle training. Cyclists convicted of traffic violations do not receive points on their drivers licenses.

F. Allows passing of slow traffic in "no passing zones" under certain conditions.

G. The new law better aligns Ohio law with provisions of the Uniform Vehicle Code, accepted nationwide as the benchmark for traffic law. HB 389 was supported by the Ohio Department of Public Safety, The Ohio State Highway Patrol and The Ohio Department of Transportation.

For more information concerning our new law which greatly improves Ohio bicycling, go to our Ohio Bicycle Federation web site at www.ohiobike.org.

OBF to Meet October 8 in Cincinnati During Tall Stacks Celebration

Join us on Sunday, October 8 as we celebrate our successful HB 389 and hold our fall OBF meeting in the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana (OKI) Regional Council of Governments offices in the Sawyer Point Building at 720 E. Pete Rose Way, Suite 420, Cincinnati. The office is on the northwest corner of Eggleston and Pete Rose Way. It is just a few blocks from the riverfront where Cincinnati will be celebrating the final day of Tall Stacks, with riverboats plying the Ohio.

The entrance is on the west side of the building. Be at the entrance by Noon, and use the speaker at the front door to ask the guard to let you in.

Directions:

From I-75 south, take 5th St. exit from the left lane. Follow 5th St thru town. Turn right on Pike St. (just after Proctor and Gamble World HQ twin towers). Turn left on 3rd St. Turn right on Eggleston. Turn right on Pete Rose Way. Turn right at the driveway / parking lot of the Sawyer Point Bldg.

From I-71 south, exit at Gilbert Ave. Turn right on Court St. Turn left immediately on Reedy St. Turn left on Eggleston. Turn right on Pete Rose Way. Turn right at the driveway / parking lot of the Sawyer Point Bldg.

Parking will be expensive because of Tall Stacks. Generally it is \$20 / car in the area parking lots including the public lot across the street south of Pete Rose Way. Identify yourself as an OBF member attending the meeting to park at a reduced rate (about \$15) in the OKI lot.

Ohio Bicycle Federation
P.O. Box 253
Xenia, OH 45385-0253

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

