

## **BICYCLE SAFETY BILL PASSES SC HOUSE.**

COLUMBIA, SC. THE Palmetto Cycling Coalition (PCC) announces the passage of The South Carolina Bicycle Safety Bill, H. 3006 the first legislation ever submitted by cycling advocates in the state of South Carolina.

The bill, introduced by Rep. J.E. Smith with 23 official co-sponsors, passed by a unanimous vote of 105-0 on Wednesday, Jan. 9. The bill now goes to the SC Senate for consideration. The bill will be known as S. 0354 in the Senate version.

“We are so excited about the House passage of this bill,” said Paul Lefrancios, President of the PCC. “South Carolina is 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation for cycling fatalities. This is unacceptable. And House members agreed. “.

According to statistics provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 5.24 cycling fatalities were recorded for every million state residents. This is well over twice the national average, with only three states having a worse per capita fatality ratio.

H. 3006 revises South Carolina’s bicycle statutes to bring them into greater conformity with the Uniform Vehicle Code, to protect bicyclists’ rights, and to create a safer environment for bicyclists while riding on South Carolina roads. Specific provisions of the bill more clearly define bicycles (to differentiate them from children’s tricycles), bike paths and bike lanes, and mandate that faster vehicles observe a safe clearance buffer while passing.

“The PCC applauds the House passage of H. 3006 as representing a future of improved safety for South Carolina cyclists and motorists alike. The PCC is grateful to Chairman Bob Walker and Subcommittee member, Representative Vida Miller, for pushing this bill through the Education and Public Works committee and onto the house floor,” said Natalie Cappuccio Britt, Executive Director of the PCC. “In the Senate we will be working to improve the bill, including removal of the Single File Amendment.” The Single File Amendment requires that cyclists ride in single file. “This may seem like a good idea at first glance, but it would prohibit parents from riding next to their children” “It is also far more difficult and dangerous for a motorist to pass a long line of cyclists riding single file versus two abreast.” The bill is headed to the SC Senate for debate.

The mission of the Palmetto Cycling Coalition, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, is to make South Carolina bicycle friendly for everyone by providing access for bicyclists on South Carolina's roads and trails, improving safety for all South Carolina bicyclists, and educating all South Carolinians on the value and importance of bicycling for healthy lifestyles and communities.

To accomplish those goals, the PCC works with cycling advocates across the state, including cycling clubs, the SC DOT, the business community and government officials on local, state and federal levels.

The PCC position paper on this legislation may be found at:

[http://pccsc.net/2007\\_SC\\_Support\\_Paper\\_H3006\\_Spring\\_07\\_Revised.pdf](http://pccsc.net/2007_SC_Support_Paper_H3006_Spring_07_Revised.pdf)

NHTSA statistics on cycling fatalities may be found at:

<http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/pdf/nrd-30/NCSA/TSF2004/809912.pdf>

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