



# Bicycle Access Council News & Digest

www.BicycleAccess-PA.org

February 2012

***Hello Members and Supporters of the Bicycle Access Council.***

**It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania!**

## **BICYCLE SAFETY LEGISLATION PASSES...**

**AND IS SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR ON FEBRUARY 2.** Formerly referred to as **House Bill 170**, the official designation is now known as **Act 3 of 2012**. After more than three years of drifting through the General Assembly, bicyclists have a clearer set of Vehicle Code statutes to increase the margin of safety as legitimate roadway users. The new law requires specified overtaking [passing] rules and guidelines whenever drivers interact with bicyclists. Act 3 becomes law in 60 days — mark your calendars to celebrate on April 2.

Act 3 of 2012 amends the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code, Title 75. The majority of changes will be found in Chapter 33, Rules of the Road.

Here are the material elements of Act 3 in each sub-chapter section context:

- § 3301(c) states [bicycles] shall keep to the right, except:
  - when using any portion of the roadway due to unsafe surface conditions, and
  - when there is only one lane of traffic in one direction (*ed: control the lane allowed*)
- § 3303 (a) (3) states motor vehicles overtaking on the left of a bicycle shall pass not less than 4 feet at a careful prudent reduced speed.
- § 3307 (b.1) states it is permissible to pass a [bicycle] in a no-passing zone, and shall pass in accordance with the four foot minimum distance shall be done in accordance with other overtaking requirements (§ 3305).
- § 3331 (e) Interference with [bicycles] — Right Hook prohibition when proceeding straight.
- § 3364 (b)(2) Minimum speed regulation. Slow moving vehicle to drive off roadway, [bicycles] may be operated at a safe and reasonable “appropriate” speed, [bicycle] operator shall use reasonable effort not to impede normal traffic

Ed note: The term [bicycle] is used in place of Pedalcycle found in the actual statutes. Full amendment text not used here.

BAC was not present when Governor Corbet signed Act 3 even though a request to be there was made directly with the governor's office. The governor had ten days to sign the bill from the time it arrived on his desk, January 26. A mock signing ceremony is being planned so as to include as many individuals and organizations who helped promote and lobby for this bill to pass to attend.

## **ALL THE NEWS FIT TO PRINT...**

**WAS COVERED BY TWO MEDIA SOURCES REGARDING ACT 3.** The *Patriot-News* (Harrisburg) gave a review of HB 170 before it was sent on to the governor. An onslaught of reader comments, mostly negative, followed. See: <http://tinyurl.com/7a62rug> *Radio PA* summarized Act 3, giving good press to BAC. See: <http://tinyurl.com/7q2kb9y> Both media reporters interviewed Joe Stafford for the background and intent of the bill.

**THE 10th ANNUAL PENNSYLVANIA BICYCLE CLUB CONFERENCE...**

**Is scheduled for April 7 in York, PA.** Pennsylvania bicycle clubs received registration instructions in January by USPS mail and e-mail. Although meant to benefit Pennsylvania bicycle clubs, any club from neighboring states, as well as individuals are welcome to attend. Contact BAC for details.

This year's featured speaker is **Keri Caffery**. She co-developed **CycleSavvy®**, an innovative approach of curriculum, empowering bicyclists to travel anywhere easily with confidence. Currently, CycleSavvy has instructors in seven states and fourteen cities. Keri's presentation will cover the challenges of USA adult bicycling education, including a group ride course component — a benefit for club ride leaders.

The agenda will also devote time to explaining the new Bicycle Safety legislation, Act 3 of 2012. Club leaders must be prepared to respond to the public, as well as, their own club members as to what the new Vehicle Code amendment really means and how it will be promoted.

PennDOT is expected to send a representative to update and explain policies and operations important to bicyclists.

As always, this is an event to showcase best practices among club leaders, whether new or experienced, which supports having a successful club. Thinking of starting a club? Want to improve your club? This is a How-To event to begin that process. Was your bike club missed from the notice? Contact BAC.

**NOTE:** The date has been changed from one scheduled earlier. New deadline for registration is April 2.

**Dates to Remember**

Feb 12	<b>STOP, SWAP AND SAVE</b> , Westminster, Maryland. StopSwapAndSave.com
March 11	2.00 a.m., <b>Daylight Saving Time</b> begins (now the second Sunday in March)
March 15	<b>PPAC</b> , Harrisburg. Open to the public. Contact BAC for details.
March 20-23	<b>National Bike Summit</b> , Washington, DC.
April 7	<b>10th Annual Pennsylvania Bike Club Conference</b> , York, PA
May 6	<b>Bike Harrisburg</b> . BAC is a sponsor with Harrisburg Bicycle Club. Details to follow.
May 4-6	BCP Spring-n2-Cycling weekend, Danville, PA. <a href="http://phillybikeclub.org">http://phillybikeclub.org</a>

**Mission Statement...**

The Bicycle Access Council is a non-profit advocacy organization that serves as a forum for Pennsylvania bicyclists and as an ombudsman for bicycling issues.

It is the objective of the Bicycle Access Council to make bicycling on roads throughout the Commonwealth safe, respectable and a transportation choice by educating its members and the motoring public.

All funding for the Bicycle Access Council comes from memberships and donations. Annual membership is \$20 per year. BAC does not share membership information.

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