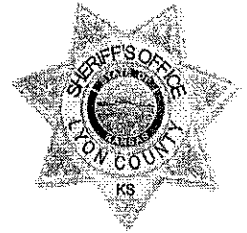


JEFFREY A. COPE
SHERIFF

OFFICE OF

LYON COUNTY SHERIFF



JOHN M. KOELSCH
UNDERSHERIFF

March 9, 2017

To: Chairman Petersen and Members of the Senate Transportation Committee

Subject: Support of HB2170

I appreciate the opportunity to testify before you on House Bill 2170 which addresses some minor changes to Statute 8-1592.

The change we have proposed is allowing the use of a red flasher or light on the rear of the bicycle without a required reflector as the current statute indicates. This change reflects common practice among adult cyclists who ride for recreation, exercise, commuting, and competitively. These cyclists can be observed year round riding in all conditions in the State including at night.

There are two types of lighting at night:

1. Passive (reflective) and Active (light emitting device). Passive lighting requires a light source that will return the light (reflector or reflective materials). This requires that the light source will actually be pointed at the reflector or reflective material in order to be seen.
2. Active lighting may be observed without another light source illuminating it (light emitting device).

A significant percentage of bicycle fatalities occur when cyclists are struck from behind. Active lighting is always the best option when operating in low light or night conditions. The proposal allows what is already common practice among the thousands of serious cyclists across the state who recognize this. These cyclists also recognize that reflective materials on moving parts of the bicycle and themselves are the best way to enhance their visibility to other users of the roadway. Static reflective materials on themselves or their bicycle are less effective in being seen.

We appreciate your time to consider this change in the statute.

John M. Koelsch
Undersheriff Lyon County

*The Complete Guide to Public Safety Cycling second edition by International Police Mountain Bike Association. Jones and Bartlett Publishers