



Mopeds & Scooters

M.G.L. c90 s.1B

MA General Law c.90 s.1 defines a **motorized bicycle**, commonly called a “moped”, as a bicycle with a motor with a cylinder capacity not exceeding 50 cubic centimeters, and an automatic transmission which cannot attain a speed over 30 MPH. The bicycle may or may not have pedals.

MA General Law c.90 s.1 defines a **motorized scooter** as any 2 wheeled tandem or 3 wheeled device that has handlebars, designed to be stood or sat upon by the operator, powered by an electric or gas powered motor that is capable of propelling the device with or without human propulsion. The definition of “motorized scooter” shall not include a motorcycle or motorized bicycle or a 3 wheeled motorized wheelchair.

C.90 s.1C: Motorized bicycles and motorized scooters shall comply with all applicable federal motor vehicle safety standards.

Only passengers allowed on mopeds. No passengers allowed on scooters

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

C.90 S.1D - Mopeds must be registered and each bike must have a plate or a sticker affixed to it with a distinctive number. The registration must be renewed biannually.

Operator must have a valid LICENSE or LEARNER’S PERMIT.

- While operating on any way, c.90 s.1B requires a license or permit when moped is operated on any way. Therefore, the police may stop a moped driver on private ways as well as public.
- Operator with a learner’s permit may operate alone. C.90 S.8B states that “in the case of a motorized bicycle, no accompanying operator shall be required.”
- Police may not arrest an unlicensed operator or operator with a suspended or revoked license.
- Fine: \$25.00, second offense \$50.00, third offense \$100

Operator and passenger MUST wear an approved helmet. Fine: \$25.00

Every person operating a motorized bicycle or riding as a passenger on a motorized bicycle shall wear protective headgear conforming with such minimum standards of construction and performance as the registrar may prescribe, and no person operating a motorized bicycle shall permit any other person to ride a passenger on such motorized bicycle unless such passenger is wearing such protective headgear.

Mopeds are allowed on all public ways, “except limited access or express state highways where signs specifically prohibiting bicycles have been posted.” Mopeds may be operated on bicycle lanes adjacent to the various ways, but are excluded from off-street recreational bicycle paths. Fine: \$25.00.

No person can operate a moped over 25 miles per hour. Fine: \$25.00.
No person can operate a scooter over 20 miles per hour. Fine: \$25.00.

All operators of mopeds and scooters: **MUST OBEY ALL TRAFFIC LAWS.** Fine: \$25.00

Police may cite a moped operator for any violation of traffic laws, for example, red light violation, stop sign violation, failure to stay in marked lanes, etc. Exception: mopeds are allowed to pass a motor vehicle on the right.

Since mopeds lack directional signals, operators must signal properly with their hand when turning.
Fine: \$25.00