

REQUIRED LIGHTING EQUIPMENT--BICYCLES. G.S. 20-129(e).

The motor vehicle law requires every bicycle when used on a highway at night¹ to be equipped with [a lighted lamp² on the front thereof, visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of at least 300 feet in front of the bicycle] [a reflex mirror or lamp on the rear, exhibiting a red light visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of at least 200 feet to the rear of the bicycle].³

A violation of this law is negligence within itself.⁴

¹A bicycle is a "vehicle" under G.S. 20-129(a). The definition of "night" includes the periods specified in G.S. 20-129(a)(1) and (2).

²The statute uses "lamp" not "light"--a usage which purists may wish to retain. See Bigelow v. Johnson, 303 N.C. 126, 277 S.E.2d 347 (1981), in which a flashlight was held not to comply with the requirements of the statute.

³G.S. 20-129(e).

⁴See Miller v. Enzor, 17 N.C. App. 510, 195 S.E.2d 86 (1973) (proximate cause presented question for jury).

