Gisclair (HB 317) **Act No. 98**

Existing law defines "authorized emergency vehicle" as including vehicles of fire departments, the weights and standards police force, police vehicles, and other emergency response vehicles.

New law adds police bicycles to existing law.

Existing law provides for certain privileges for drivers of authorized emergency vehicles when responding to an emergency call or when in pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law.

New law extends the privileges in existing law to the peace officers riding bicycles in furtherance of their official duties.

Existing law provides that every person riding a bicycle shall be granted all of the rights and shall be subject to all the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle, except as to special regulations and except as to those provisions which by their very nature can have no application.

New law provides that every person riding a bicycle shall be granted all of the rights and shall be subject to all the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle, except as to special regulations, including special regulations applying to peace officers utilizing bicycles in furtherance of their official duties, and except as to those provisions which by their very nature can have no application.

Existing law requires certain lights and lamps on bicycles.

New law retains existing law, but excepts bicycles while utilized by peace officers in furtherance of their official duties from these requirements.

Effective August 15, 2011.

(Amends R.S. 32:1(1), 24, 194, and 329(F))