

[Bracketed numbers are Vehicle Code 625 ILCS]

Bicyclist's Status - Traffic laws apply to persons riding bicycles. Bicyclists riding on a highway are granted all of the rights and are subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle, with certain exceptions. [5/11-1502]

Lane Positioning - When riding on roadways and bike paths at less than normal traffic speed, ride as close as practicable and safe to the right-hand curb or edge of roadway except when:

1. Overtaking and passing another bicycle or vehicle proceeding in the same direction.
2. Preparing for a left turn.

Use of Sidewalks (and Crossing Right-of-Way)

Local ordinance may prohibit bicyclists from using sidewalks. Where permitted, bicyclists must yield to pedestrians and give audible signals before passing them. Bicyclists using sidewalks have all the rights and duties of pedestrians. [5/11-1512]

If no traffic signals are in place, vehicle drivers shall stop and yield the right-of-way to peds within marked or unmarked crosswalks in (or dangerously close to) the roadway half upon which the vehicle is traveling—but peds should not enter the path of a moving vehicle so closely to be an immediate hazard. [5/11-1002(a,b)]

Pedestrians shall yield the

3. Reasonably necessary to avoid fixed or moving objects, parked or moving vehicles, bikes, motorized pedal cycles, pedestrians, animals, surface hazards or substandard width lanes that make it unsafe to continue along the right-hand curb or edge. A "substandard width lane" means a lane that is too narrow for a bicycle and a vehicle to travel safely side by side within the lane.

4. Approaching a place where a right turn is authorized.

5. Riding on a 1-way highway with two or more marked traffic lanes. Here, bicyclists may ride as near the left-hand curb or edge of such roadway as practicable. [5/11-1505]

Riding Side-by-Side - Riding 2 abreast is permitted as long

right-of-way if crossing at other points. [5/11-1003(a)]

Low-speed Electric/Gas Bicycles - Operators must be at least 16 years of age. Low-speed electric or gas bicycles may not be operated on a sidewalk, or at speeds over 20 mph on a road. All other bicycle laws apply. [5/11-1516]

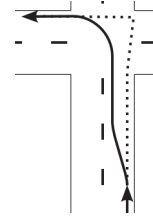
Two or More on a Bike Bicycles shall not be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped, except an adult rider may carry a child securely attached to his person in a backpack or sling. [5/11-1503]

Carrying Articles - No bicyclist shall carry any package, bundle or article

as the normal and reasonable movement of traffic is not impeded. Riding more than two abreast is prohibited except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles. [5/11-1505.1]

Left Turns

Bicyclists may choose between a vehicular-style left turn or a pedestrian-style left turn. [5/11-1510]



For vehicular-style left turns, proceed as if driving a vehicle, moving to the left lane or the left side of a single lane prior to the intersection. [5/11-801]

For pedestrian-style left-turns, ride near the right side of the roadway, cross the intersecting

which prevents the use of both hands in the operation and control of the bike. At least one hand shall be kept on the handlebars at all times. [5/11-1506]

Lights and Reflectors on Bicycles - For night riding, a front white light visible from at least 500 feet to the front and a red reflector on the rear visible from 100-600 feet are required. A rear light visible from 500 feet may be used in addition to the red reflector. New bikes sold require pedal and side reflectors and an essentially colorless front facing reflector. [5/11-1507]

Clinging to Vehicles - No person riding on a bicycle shall attach the same or himself to any vehicle upon a roadway. [5/11-1504]

roadway, stop (as much as practicable out of the way of traffic), yield to any traffic and proceed in the new direction, while obeying any official traffic control device or police officer. [5/11-1510]

Passing on the Right - The law requiring at least eight feet width for two-wheeled vehicles to pass on the right does not apply to devices propelled by human power. [5/11-704(b)]

Hand Signals - Signals shall be given from the left side as follows: Left turn—hand and arm extended horizontally. Right turn—hand and arm extended upward, except bicyclists may extend the right hand and arm horizontally and to the right side of the bike. Stop or decrease of speed—

hand and arm extended downward. [5/11-806]

Signal not less than the last 100 feet before the turn, and while the bicycle is stopped waiting to turn. Signals need not be given continuously if the hand is needed in the control or operation of the bicycle. [5/11-1511]

“Dead Red” Stoplight - (In all towns except Chicago) A bicyclist, stopped at a red light which fails to detect the bike and change to green within a reasonable period of time not less than 120 seconds, shall have the right to proceed, after yielding right of way to oncoming traffic facing a green signal, subject to the rules applicable after making a stop at a stop sign. [5/11-306(c)3.5]

Cars Passing Bikes - A motorist overtaking a bicycle shall leave a safe distance, but not less than three feet, when passing the bike and shall maintain that distance until safely past the overtaken bicycle. [5/11-703(d)]

Harassment - A motorist shall not, in a reckless manner, drive unnecessarily close to, toward, or near a bicyclist. Depending on whether great bodily harm results, this is a Class A misdemeanor or a Class 3 Felony. [5/11-703(e,f)]

Try **BikeSafetyQuiz.com** to learn more about best riding practices, safety techniques, and driving in the presence of bicycles.

Illinois Bicycle Laws

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Please wear a helmet, ride predictably and visibly, and obey the laws. Carry this card in your wallet for easy reference.

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