

[Bracketed text is 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 (including right-of-way Article IX) 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 bicycle paths at less than normal traffic speed, ride as close as practicable and safe to the right-hand curb or edge of roadway except:

1. When overtaking and passing another bicycle or vehicle proceeding in the same direction.
2. When preparing for a left turn.
3. When reasonably necessary to avoid fixed or moving objects, parked or moving vehicles, bicycles, 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. When approaching a place where a right turn is authorized.
5. When riding on a one-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 two abreast is permitted as long as the normal and reasonable movement of traffic is not impeded.

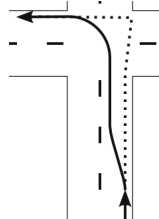
Riding more than two abreast is prohibited except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles. [5/11-1505.1]

Riding on a Shoulder

The law restricting driving on a shoulder shall not apply to any bicycle. [5/11-709.1]

Left Turns

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



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

For a pedestrian-style left-turn, ride near the right side of the road, cross the intersection, stop (as much as practicable out of the way of traffic), yield to any traffic and proceed in the new direction. Be sure to obey traffic control devices or police officers. [5/11-1510]

Hand Signals

Signals shall be given from the left side as follows: [5/11-806]

- Left turn: hand and arm extended horizontally.
- Right turn: left hand and arm extended upward; or extend the right hand and arm horizontally to the right.
- Stopping or slowing: hand and arm extended downward.

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 municipalities 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]

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 traffic signals are not 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. Pedestrians should not enter the path of a moving vehicle so closely to be an immediate hazard. [5/11-1002(a,b)]

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

Please wear a helmet, ride predictably, communicate, and obey traffic laws.

Carry this card for easy reference.

Visit **BikeSafetyQuiz.com** to learn more about best riding practices, safety techniques, and driving in near people on bicycles.

For more information about bicycle laws, safety, education, maps and guides, events, advocacy, and more, visit rideillinois.org.

Information included in this wallet card aligns with Illinois state laws as of April 2024.

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)]

Low-speed Gas Bikes

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

Low-speed Electric Bikes

E-bikes may be operated on roads, but not on sidewalks. Bicycle paths may be used, except where prohibited by the maintaining agency. Operators of Class 3 e-bikes must be at least 16 years of age. All other laws pertaining to bicycles apply. [5/11-1517]

Carrying Articles

No bicyclist shall carry any package, bundle or article which prevents the use of both hands in the control and operation of the bike. At least one hand shall be kept on the handlebars at all times. [5/11-1506]

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 their body in a backpack or sling. [5/11-1503]

Lights and Other Equipment

When biking at night, 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 steady or flashing red rear light visible from 500 feet may be used in addition to or instead of 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 themselves to any vehicle upon a road. [5/11-1504]

Cars Passing Bikes

A motorist overtaking a bicyclist shall leave a safe distance, not less than three feet, when passing the bicyclist and shall maintain that distance until they safely past the bicyclist. [5/11-703(d)]

A motorist may pass a bike in a no-passing zone when: (1) the bike's speed is less than half of the speed limit; (2) the driver is able to pass without exceeding the speed limit; and (3) there is sufficient distance ahead on the left side to pass safely. [5/11-703(d-5)]

Harassment

A motorist shall not, in a reckless manner, drive unnecessarily close to, toward, or near a bicyclist. A Class A misdemeanor or Class 3 felony may be issued to the motorist if such behavior results in a crash causing great bodily harm to the bicyclist. [5/11-703(e,f)]

Scan the code to learn more about Ride Illinois and our efforts to make Illinois better through biking!



Illinois Bicycle Laws

A useful resource developed by:

